



PLAY ON<sup>®</sup>

## 2026 COLORADO LOTTERY STARBURST AWARD APPLICATION INFORMATION

The Starburst Awards recognize outstanding use of Lottery proceeds funded through Colorado Lottery Beneficiaries: Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), the Outdoor Equity Grant Program (OEGP), and Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST). Submissions may include programs and projects such as, but not limited to: parks, playgrounds, outdoor recreation facilities, land conservation, trail enhancement, open space acquisition, wildlife/natural resource preservation, and public school improvements.

Organization / Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Funding was Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Project Budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Project Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Project End Date (must be within 5 Years): \_\_\_\_\_

Which Lottery Proceeds Beneficiary did the project receive funding through (check all that apply and add amounts):

☐  
GOCO

☐  
CTF

☐  
CPW

☐  
OEGP

☐  
BEST

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief overview of any additional funding sources, if any:

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide a brief summary with key highlights of your project here. Please limit description to 250 words. Include any additional detail in the Project Narrative.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS & PHOTO AUTHORIZATION

I understand to complete this application, I am required to submit the additional items listed on the next page no later than **February 13, 2026**. I confirm that the information in this Starburst application is accurate to the best of my knowledge; that any photos to be included in this application are the property of my agency; and that all necessary release forms from the photographer(s) and the subject(s) any photos submitted have been obtained. I authorize the Lottery to use these photos for promotions and publicity.

Type Name to Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEXT STEPS

1. Please submit this form via email to: Adrian Varney at [adrian.varney@state.co.us](mailto:adrian.varney@state.co.us).
2. You will receive a confirmation email containing a link to a shared Google folder, where you'll be able to submit all additional materials. **Please reach out if you do not receive this email in a day or two.**
3. Submit all additional materials (outlined below) to Google folder by **February 13, 2026**.
4. Winners will be notified the first week of April.
5. We will run our highly successful People's Choice Contest again this year for the month of July. We will have more specific information at that time.

For any questions, please contact Adrian Varney, Proceeds Manager, at [adrian.varney@state.co.us](mailto:adrian.varney@state.co.us).

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO COMPLETE APPLICATION

### 1. Project Narrative

Your project narrative should tell the story of how your project came to life and the difference it has made for your community and for Colorado. Please address the following:

- a. **Project Overview:** Provide a concise description of your project, including its purpose, scope, and main accomplishments.
- b. **Use of Lottery Funds:** Explain how Colorado Lottery proceeds were used to make this project possible.
- c. **Goals and Achievements:** Describe your project's goals and how they were achieved through thoughtful planning, partnerships, and community engagement.
- d. **Community Impact:** Detail the social, environmental, and/or economic benefits your project has brought to your community.
- e. **Long-Term Value:** Explain how this project creates lasting value for Colorado's residents, wildlife, or natural resources.
- f. **What Makes It Special:** Share what makes your project distinctive - whether through innovation, collaboration, or the way it embodies Colorado's outdoor spirit.
- g. **Alignment with the Lottery's Mission:** Does the project exemplify the responsible and purposeful use of Lottery funds - turning play into public good and investing in the future of Colorado's outdoors?

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### 2. Photo Submission

Please include approved color photos of your project. Images may be used in Lottery promotional materials such as, but not limited to:

- a. Social Media posts
- b. The Starburst Awards website
- c. Colorado Lottery Giving Back Page
- d. Information or education campaigns highlighting Lottery proceeds

## EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

When evaluating submissions, the Colorado Lottery seeks projects that reflect the spirit of the Starburst Awards - those that maximize the impact of Lottery proceeds while strengthening communities and Colorado's outdoor legacy.

**Projects are evaluated based on the following:**

- **Creativity and Innovation:** Does the project demonstrate an inventive or thoughtful use of Lottery proceeds to solve a local challenge or enhance quality of life?
- **Collaboration and Community Support:** Was the project shaped by strong partnerships and local involvement that reflect broad community benefit and pride?
- **Impact and Outcomes:** Has the project created measurable social, environmental, and/or economic benefits for the community, region, or state?
- **Long-Term Value and Stewardship:** Will the project continue to provide enduring benefits for residents, wildlife, and Colorado's natural resources in the years ahead?
- **Alignment with the Lottery's Mission:** Does the project exemplify the responsible and purposeful use of Lottery funds - turning play into public good and investing in the future of Colorado's outdoors?