Community Science Engagement and Science Communication Grants 2026

The grant

Inspiring South Australia is offering grants to fund the delivery of community science engagement and science communication projects in South Australia. The projects will provide opportunities to learn about, connect with and get excited about science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM). The project may be a series of events or activities or a one-off event or activity.

Projects that have already applied for an Inspiring SA grant round in 2026 will not be eligible for this grant round, but organisations are welcome to apply for more than one grant for different projects.

Purpose of the grant

Grants are available for projects which provide South Australians with opportunities to:
- Learn about, connect with and get excited about STEM
- Provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge
- Encourage an interest in STEM pursuits among the general public
- Encourage younger people to become fascinated by the world we live in
- Encourage new and innovative ways of engaging with audiences
- Encourage diversity and inclusion in STEM engagement, education, careers or industry

Grant amounts available

up to $3500 for delivery in metropolitan Adelaide
up to $4500 for delivery in regional and remote South Australia

Key dates

Applications open	Monday 16 February 2026
Application close	5pm Monday 16 March 2026
All applicants notified no later than	Monday 13 April 2026
Successful applicants submit valid tax invoice	Monday 4 May 2026
Project delivered by	Sunday 31 January 2027
Post project report and evaluation submitted	Monday 8 February 2027

How to apply

Complete the Grant Application Form on Grants - Inspiring South Australia by **16 March 2026.** This form will be available from 16 February 2026.

To give your application the best chance of success please make sure your project meets the essential criteria plus as many desirable criteria as possible. All questions must be answered completely.

Who can apply for a community grant?

- Scientists and researchers – industry or university
- University groups and clubs
- Science communicators
- Event producers
- Artists and arts organisations
- Community organisations
- Cultural institutions
- Landcare groups
- Citizen science groups
- Local government, including libraries
- Schools if the project is for the general public (beyond the school community)
- Sole traders

Ineligible projects

Projects that include the following are not eligible to apply for this grant:
- Projects that will be part of National Science Week, August 2026
- Projects only for school students, on and off site. This grant round is designed for broader science engagement. Schools may apply if the grant will be used for a project for the general public (beyond their school community)
- Projects occurring outside South Australia
- Applications seeking reimbursement of funds already spent
- Training and development of paid staff
- Attendance at conferences, tradeshows or award ceremonies
- Not a commercial enterprise – unless the grant is to enable access and inclusion of underrepresented audiences

Grant assessment process

The Grant Assessment Panel consists of two suitably qualified independent members (who individually or their organisations have not applied for a grant) and the Inspiring SA Program Manager.

To be eligible for assessment the grant application must meet all of the essential criteria. The grant will then be scored according to the desirable assessment criteria.

If you're not sure whether you meet the criteria, please reach out to the Inspiring SA Program Manager at InspiringSA@sa.gov.au.

Inspiring SA can only support a limited number of applications each year. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee a grant. Successful applications will be selected by the Grant Assessment Panel and will provide the greatest impact for the funding required.

Essential criteria

To be considered for a grant, applications must meet these criteria:

- The project must not be a registered National Science Week activity or delivered during National Science Week in August 2026
- The project must provide an opportunity for participants to learn about, connect with or get excited about STEM ideas and concepts, research or current industries, educational opportunities or employment and enjoyment

- Project engages underrepresented groups in STEM including but not limited to:
  - First Nations people
  - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people
  - Women and girls
  - People with disability
  - People from low socio-economic backgrounds
  - Neurodivergent people
  - LGBTQIA+ people
  - People who face age-based discrimination
  - Regional and remote communities

Desirable assessment criteria

To support a strong and competitive application, applicants should ensure their submission includes the following:
- A clear description of the project
- Innovative project content, design or delivery
- Clear aims and objectives of the project
- Realistic proposed outcomes and outputs
- Expected audience size proportionate to proposed grant funding
- A clear marketing and promotion plan
- A clear and accurate budget
- Scientifically accurate and clear STEM content
- Opportunity for post-event engagement such as resources, handouts, or a recording

Grant terms

By accepting a grant, you agree to the following:

- To provide a signed grant agreement and invoice to inspiringsa@sa.gov.au within three weeks of notification of a successful application
- To include the following Audience Survey questions in the registration for your project and provide a summary of the answers to these questions as part of your Post Project Report:
  - postcode
  - age
  - gender (male, female, non-binary, other)
  - are you attending with children?
  - do you currently work/study in a science, technology, engineering, or maths related field?
  - how did you hear about the project? (social media, email newsletter, word of mouth, print, radio, other)
- Provide a promotional image, links to registration, text for use on social media and in the Inspiring SA newsletter at least 4 weeks before your project
- Use Inspiring SA logos on all marketing and project promotional materials
- Acknowledge Inspiring SA as a sponsor at any live events or in any recordings
- Submit a Post Project Report no later than three weeks after the project has been delivered

As a grant recipient you will be able to:

- Have your project promoted in the Inspiring SA newsletter, on the Inspiring SA website and social media channels
- Receive some support from Inspiring SA Program Manager
- Use Inspiring SA banners and other promotional materials at your project
- Receive a summary report of the Audience Survey questions to help you better understand Inspiring SA audiences

Post project reporting and evaluation

If successful, a reporting template will be provided to you when you receive your grant offer. This report must be completed within three weeks of completing your event. This report will include details of the project, how the grant funds were spent, the makeup of the audience and any audience feedback plus evaluation and lessons learned from the project.

Regional or Remote Grants

To be eligible for a Regional or Remote Grant the project MUST be delivered in one or more of the following council areas:

Adelaide Hills Council	Mount Barker District Council
Adelaide Plains Council	City of Mount Gambier
Alexandrina Council	District Council of Mount Remarkable
The Barossa Council	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Barunga West Council	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
Berri Barmera Council	Northern Areas Council
District Council of Ceduna	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	District Council of Peterborough
District Council of Cleve	Port Augusta City Council
District Council of Coober Pedy	City of Port Lincoln
Coorong District Council	Port Pirie Regional Council
Copper Coast Council	Renmark Paringa Council
District Council of Elliston	District Council of Robe
The Flinders Ranges Council	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs
District Council of Franklin Harbour	Southern Mallee District Council
Regional Council of Goyder	District Council of Streaky Bay
District Council of Grant	Tatiara District Council
Kangaroo Island Council	District Council of Tumby Bay
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	City of Victor Harbor
District Council of Kimba	Wakefield Regional Council
Kingston District Council	Wattle Range Council
Light Regional Council	City of Whyalla
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	Wudinna District Council
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	District Council of Yankalilla
Mid Murray Council	Yorke Peninsula Council