

Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is soliciting applications for the 2026 Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant. This small-grants program is named in memory of a local botanist renowned for her many contributions to the botany and history of the Eastern Sierra Nevada and northern Mojave Desert.



Bristlecone Chapter

Our goal is to promote research and projects that increase understanding and appreciation of native plants and ecosystems in the Bristlecone Chapter area.

Anyone may apply, but we are especially interested in helping graduate and undergraduate college students as well as elementary, middle, and high school pupils and their teachers. The only requirement is that the project include studies within the Bristlecone Chapter area – generally defined as Inyo and Mono Counties, but including adjacent biogeographic areas of the northern Mojave Desert, Sierra Nevada, or western Great Basin. Subjects appropriate for funding cover a wide range, from basic taxonomic or ecological research to native plant gardens. The committee evaluates applications based on the extent to which the proposed project is specific to our regional flora, fills information gaps, and contributes to public awareness of native flora. We seek well-organized proposals that demonstrate a clear objective and a pathway to achieve success.

The program will award grants of up to \$1,500 each. Proposals exceeding \$1,500 may still be considered, contingent on chapter funding and project justification; in such cases, applicants are advised to develop their project acknowledging that only \$1,500 or less may be available, and line-item the budget accordingly.

Criteria and Procedures

Submit written proposals to the Mary DeDecker Grant Committee. Each should contain 1) title, 2) objectives, 3) methods, 4) expected final product, 5) relevance to chapter area (at least part of the project should be conducted in Inyo or Mono Counties), 6) proposed budget, 7) permitting plans for collection and research from relevant land managers, and 8) applicant's resume. Student proposals must include a letter of support from their adviser or teacher. Electronic files may be in Word or pdf format, and should be named using the format: LastNameFirstName_2025application (or _2025letter). Proposals should not exceed three pages in length, excluding resume. The deadline for complete proposal packages is **January 16, 2026**. All applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by **early March, 2026**.

A progress report explaining how Bristlecone Chapter funds were used is due at the end of the calendar year. Applicants are encouraged to give a talk about their project at a chapter evening meeting and/or to write a brief explanation of their work for the Bristlecone Chapter newsletter.

Send proposals or requests for information to:

grants@bristleconecnps.org (electronic submissions are preferred but not required)

OR:

Kathleen Nelson

Mary DeDecker Grant Committee Chair

P. O. Box 364

Bishop, CA 93514

You can find more information about the Bristlecone Chapter Grants Program, including this Request for Proposals, at

[DeDecker Grant - Bristlecone Chapter CNPS](#)