



2024 PTG Shade Structure Program

PTG Shade Structure Guidelines

The Protect The Groms Shade Structure Program awards grants to public and charter elementary schools for the installation of permanent shade structures to cover areas of their school's campus that are not protected from the sun. Non-profit organizations that are dedicated to outdoor experiences and education for youth will also be considered. Protect The Groms has the sole right and discretion to approve all grant applications. The number of grants depends on the availability of funding each year.

Eligibility

To be considered, applicants must:

- Be a public or charter elementary school in the United States (provided, that a charter school must be a 501(c)(3) organization) or be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to outdoor experiences and youth education.
- (If a school) Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to sun safety awareness by having an official sun safety policy in their school's handbook.
- Be committed to promoting sun safety through education and protection; and considering a shade structure that meets The Protect The Groms Shade Structure Program requirements.

Shade Structure Criteria

A shade structure is defined by Protect The Groms as being a permanent structure with a roof made of protective materials such as fabric, textile, metal, or wood, and supported by colors or posts. Grant recipients are able to select the size and type of structure that best fits their outdoor location and meets The Protect The Groms Shade Structure Program criteria.

The manufacturer or contractor must design and install a shade structure that meets the following criteria: The shade structure must be a permanent structure with a roof constructed of shade cloth, metal or wood and provide significant protection from ultraviolet radiation (UVR).

Cloth/Textile Roof Structures

- Shade cloth or roof structures must include documentation about the percentage of UVR that will be blocked by the fabric or the Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF).
- Protect The Groms recommends fabric that provides a UPF of 30 or above, which is approximately 96.7% of UVR blocked.
- If a UPF value cannot be determined for the fabric style and color you have selected, you will be asked to choose a shade structure roof material which blocks a percentage of UVR closest to this recommended percentage.



- Grant recipients must provide the manufacturer's specification documents showing the UVR-blocking properties and test method. Protect The Groms recommends that shade cloth meet U.S. standards for UPF testing and labeling of UV-protective textiles (AATCC 183; ASTM D6603).

Hard-top Roof Structures

- Hard-top roof structures, either wood or metal, will block 100% of direct UVR and do not require additional documentation about the percentage of UVR that will be blocked by such structures.

If the shade structure that your organization is considering does not meet the criteria above, please do not complete an application. Examples of ineligible shade structures include: slat-roof structures, slat-roof/trellis gazebos, trellis roofs designed for future plant coverage, shade trees, and small cap-roof structures for pieces of playground equipment.





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Follow Up

Shade Vendor Invoice, a copy of any contract for construction, materials or labor related to the shade structure with respect to which a grant has been made, certification (with an accurate photograph of the completed shade structure) by the grant recipient upon completion of the shade structure with respect to which a grant has been made, and the grant recipient's IRS Form W-9 must be received by the end of the calendar year of each grant period. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the grant to the next runner up.

Please Note

Protect The Groms will have no responsibility or liability for monitoring or arranging for the construction of any shade structure with respect to which a grant has been made. The grant recipient is required to engage a licensed contractor and is responsible for complying with all laws and ordinances with respect to the construction of the shade structure.

Apply Online

Applicants must submit their application online when applying for the Protect The Groms Shade Structure Program grant.

