SOUTH DAKOTA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM
Project Innovation Grants – Application and Instructions
2026/2027 Academic Year (Award Period of August 12, 2026 to August 11, 2027)
Release Date – January 12, 2026
Due Date – March 13, 2026
Expected Award Announcements – May 1, 2026

Vision and Mission - South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC)
The vision of the SDSGC is to expand opportunities for all South Dakotans through education, research, and public service in the fields of aerospace, earth, and space science. As the link between NASA and the citizens of South Dakota, SDSGC's mission is to instill the spirit of exploration and discovery in students and educators and in the general public, with a special focus on the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) that are essential for the development of the nation's workforce.

Specific higher education, precollege, and informal education goals can be found in SDSGC's Strategic Plan, located online at: **http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/SDSGC-StrategicPlanReorg2019.pdf**

Description of Project Innovation Grant solicitation
Identify and stimulate new educational capabilities in the state, the SD Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) is soliciting proposals for its **Project Innovation Grant (PIG)** program.

Objective of PIGs: Provide seed funding for meritorious projects that:

1) Focus on one or more of the following program areas:
   a) Higher Education (Research included)
   b) Precollege Education
   c) Informal Education
2) Align with NASA Mission Directorate research priorities and/or NASA Center Areas of Interest
3) Show potential to develop into long-term, sustainable programs.

Preference will be given to proposals that:

1) Align with one or more of NASA's current priority education areas:
   a) Undergraduate STEM education (especially retention and engagement in hands-on, NASA-related activities)
   b) Effective K-12 STEM teacher education
2) Include one or more of the following:
   a) Mission-driven authentic STEM experiences
   b) Programs that use evidence-based practices
   c) Scalability through partnerships and networks
3) Include components associated with the following SDSGC interests:
   a) NASA topic related competitive student teams/challenges
   b) Projects involving work with or at USGS EROS and/or SURF
   c) Artemis mission projects
   d) NASA Citizen Science programs (https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience)

List of successful PIG proposal titles, amounts, and organizations from 2006-2025:

http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/PIGs-2006-PresentYear.pdf

Project Timeframe:

These funds may be used to fund one-year PIG projects during the period of August 12, 2026 to August 11, 2027, with all required final reporting being due on or before August 11, 2027.

Funding Information

- The Congressional and National Space Grant budgets are not entirely clear, but at this point ~$100k is expected to be available to fund PIG projects from SDSGC's budget from August 12, 2026 to August 11, 2027.
- Projects proposals may request between $1,000 - $25,000
- Matching (non-federal cost-sharing) is required at a rate of 1:1 (NASA:Match) or more
- One proposal per PI
- **All awards are contingent upon U.S. Congressional approval of the NASA federal budget and the availability and receipt of SD Space Grant funding from NASA. If**

funds dispersal is delayed from NASA to SDSGC, our fund delivery to you will also be delayed. In these cases, we may be able to extend project timelines.

Eligibility

- All 27 affiliate organizations <http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/membership.html> within the SDSGC are eligible to submit proposals.
- Pursuant to NASA Space Grant requirements, any **student(s) receiving direct NASA Space Grant funding support under a PIG project must be of U.S. citizenship**, although the PI or co-I submitting the proposal need not be of U.S. citizenship provided they are not receiving a NASA Internship or Fellowship under the Space Grant Program.

Proposal Guidelines

The narrative portion of the proposal (items 1-3 below) is limited to **three pages** at 12-point font, and must include the following items.

1) Project title, applicant name, organization/school, address, phone, email address, total budget request
2) List the name of the NASA Mission Directorate that best aligns with this project and provide brief rationale for choosing this Directorate
3) Project abstract (100 words or less)
4) Project Narrative
   a) Measurable objectives with associated metrics to be used to evaluate the success of the project
   b) List of any project partners including organization name and role played in project
   c) Project timeline
   d) Brief discussion of how the project aligns with NASA Mission Directorate Research Priorities and/or NASA Center Areas of Interest *(see Appendices A.1 – A.5 at: http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/SpaceGrantPIG-FY2024Announcement-AppxA1-A5.docx* and how the project advances the objectives of the SDSGC
   e) Discussion of the potential for the project to develop into a major educational or research program with plans to secure additional future funding from NASA and/or other sources
   f) Only in the case of higher education proposals that may involve <u>research</u> and any other subjects where the following support materials would be appropriate: 1) a two-page CV, 2) an indication of current and pending support for the proposed

research, and 3) a list of references (citations) for proposed work. *(These items should be appended and are not part of the three-page limit mentioned above).*

   g) A signed statement by the applicant [i.e., person(s) submitting the proposal] indicating that they understand that all students receiving direct NASA Space Grant funding support must be of U.S. citizenship.

5) Budget shall be attached as separate page(s): *See suggested budget format at the end of this document.*

   a) Salary/wages

   b) Fringe benefits

   c) Travel* (domestic only)

   d) Supplies* (no single piece of equipment or package of several parts that function together as one unit over $4,999, no computer or computing related technology, or clothing purchases allowed, and no food. Drones/UAVs and drone/UAV components also have new restrictions from the federal government. This restriction also applies to the required 1:1 non-federal match (cost-sharing)).

   e) Other direct costs (please specify)

   f) Total NASA Space Grant funding requested

* Detailed justification for any travel, supplies, or other direct costs is required in budget notes. **All purchases must occur within the time frame of the PIG award**, which in this year is 8/12/26 – 9/1/27 (i.e., items purchased prior to or after these dates are not allowable).

NOTE: Facilities & Administration "F&A" (i.e., overhead or indirect) costs are not allowed.

Due Date

- Proposals must be received by **March 20, 2026**. Award notifications are anticipated to be made by May 1, 2026. Send all proposals to todd.letcher@sdstate.edu.

Completion, Final Report, and Evaluation Survey

1) Grant recipients agree that awarded projects should be completed and all project invoices submitted by August 11, 2026.

2) A **Final Report** must be emailed to Todd Letcher <todd.letcher@sdstate.edu> at the SDSGC Headquarters Office by the end of the project period. The final report must include:

    a) an <u>introductory summary containing the significant points and the **numbers** of participants reached</u> including students, teachers, and/or general public including age, grade, gender, % minorities, organization names, etc.,

    b) a <u>description of project accomplishments,</u>

    c) an <u>assessment of each of the projects intended goals/objectives listed in the proposal,</u>

    d) a <u>list of any products produced</u> (such as educational curriculum developed, patents, invention disclosures, etc.),

    e) any insightful <u>quotes from project participants,</u>

    f) <u>citation of any publications/posters/presentations,</u>

    g) plans for <u>next steps</u>, and

    h) a <u>detailed expense account</u> that will hold up to an audit,

    i) photos are particularly requested, especially when accompanied by the NASA Photo Release form.

3) Upon receipt of an email from SDSGC's Program Evaluator, Steckelberg Consulting, LLC, the PIG PI must complete in an **on-line post-project evaluation survey** that will ask for much of the same information that can be cut-and-pasted from the final report, but will also include some evaluation questions.

Proposal Submission

PIG Proposals must be submitted to SDSGC Director Todd Letcher via email at todd.letcher@sdstate.edu **as a <u>single-file attachment</u> in either PDF or Word format** and received by **March 20, 2026 at 11:59pm CST**. Late or incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

Questions? Contact Todd Letcher – Email: todd.letcher@sdstate.edu

SD Space Grant AY 2026-2027 "Project Innovation Grant" Proposal Budget
Project period: August 12, 2026 through September 1, 2027)

<INSERT PROJECT TITLE HERE>		
	Proposal Amount (Requested Funds)	Non-Federal Matching Funds
A. Salaries and Wages		
PI	$	$
Co-PI	$	$
Co-I	$	$
Staff/Other Personnel	$	$
Graduate Students	$	$
Undergraduate Students	$	$
Total Salaries	$	$
B. Fringe Benefits		
Staff	$	$
Students	$	$
Total Fringe Benefits	$	$
C. Travel		
Airfare	$	$
Car	$	$
Hotel	$	$
Taxi	$	$
Per Diem	$	$
Total Travel	$	$
D. Supplies	$	$
E. Other Direct Costs	$	$
F. Total Costs	$	$

Budget Notes: