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Tips for Grant Request from the Friends of the NRA (FONRA) 2026 cycle

Crystal Graham of the VT Foundation has set an internal deadline of **Monday, October 20, 2025 at noon** for submissions so she can complete the 501(c)(3) portion of our grant requests (not applicable to clubs with their own 501(c)(3) program). Also, please see the attachments needed to complete the process.

There are three things you can get started on today:

1. Get your letter for Justice McClanahan from your unit 4-H Agent. There is a new requirement listed in the email from Crystal: **NEW!** Signed letter to Justice McClanahan required on letterhead, attached as "Compliance Designee letter for VTF". Please include where to assess the 5% fee for cash gifts- required for all grant applicants.
2. Draft your paragraphs for the grant request. The paragraphs typically include: Project Description, Impact Measured By, Recognition, Benefit to Community, Fundraising Activities, and a few other minor categories.
3. Develop your club's plan for the things you want to have granted to your club

The tips below were developed after attending the Virginia FONRA decision meeting for many years. VA 4-H has historically done very well because we follow the guidelines below.

Tips:

1. Above all, follow the guidelines provided by the grant instructions.
2. Make sure you correctly **identify your most important items** as priority 1, 2, 3, etc. with the understanding that your lowest priority items may not get funded.
3. **Use the internet** and look up the prices of the items you are requesting and try not to exceed a suggested total of about \$4,000 to \$4,500. Higher amounts may be granted for special circumstances. Some clubs in the past have requested excessive funding amounts which brings the club's and 4-H credibility under scrutiny.
4. There are very knowledgeable people reviewing these requests! If you are requesting a \$3,500 Anschutz air rifle, a \$5,000 trailer, or anything else that is out of the ordinary, someone is going to ask why. Your documentation needs to soundly support your requested items, or your grant request could be denied. Also, if you are a small club of archery shooters and ask for 6 shotguns someone is going to ask why. You really need to communicate your needs to Lynn Wheelless, Robert Tillotson, or Jinx Baney so we can support you during the decision meeting.
5. Don't ask for expensive, competition ammo unless your team is a competition team. Document in the grant narrative why you are asking for expensive ammo. For example, please don't ask for Winchester AA (\$134) unless you really know what they are and really need them during competition events and not regular training. Instead, ask for regular training shotgun shells like Challenger for \$89 per case, or Winchester Heavy Target for \$97. In 2024, all Winchester AA shells were denied. Another shot shell issue to avoid is Winchester AA TrAAcker for \$15 a box! If you know that you need them, justify it in your application. FYI, a pallet of Clay Targets costs about \$1,200. All prices in this paragraph are estimates based on last year's internet prices.
6. Do not order the Ruger Precision Rimfire Rifle as it does not comply with the Modern military Firearms policy. The Ruger American .22 rifle has some peep sights that are not ideal

for target shooting, but the scoped model is fine. You can ask for a check to purchase Savage FVT MK I or Mk II which have excellent peep sights.

7. Be very careful before ordering any metal target! You need to comply with the VA 4-H Metallic and Reactive target policy. Dueling trees are not allowed. You can only use targets with the pivot at the top with the target hanging down so that ricochets go down into the soil. Here is a link to the policy: https://ext.vt.edu/content/dam/ext_vt_edu/topics/4h-youth/nree/shooting/2023/VASE%20Policy%20and%20Procedures%20April%202023.pdf

8. If what you really need is not listed in the NRA Foundation online catalog, you can request a check instead. There are more administrative steps you will have to go through, but it may be worth the extra trouble. For example, if you really need Savage MK I - RVT rimfire target rifles, don't settle for something else just because the Savage is not listed in the catalog; instead, ask for a check and purchase the Savage rifles through your local gun dealer.

9. You can ask for a capital improvement grant (formerly known as range improvement) instead of an equipment grant (but not both). Capital improvement grants receive greater scrutiny so word the request carefully. Please know that the same dollar amounts apply, so don't exceed \$4,000 to \$4,500 unless it is an exceptional issue. You would use this method to acquire the more expensive trap machines.

10. **Be careful with quantities!** Shotgun shells are listed as (250 Count) which means they are delivered in cases of 250 shells (10 boxes of 25 rounds). If you select quantity 30, you will be ordering 300 boxes of shotgun shells, which is 7,500 shotgun shells. .22 ammo is listed two ways, first as (5,000 Count) which means you will get a case, which is ten "bricks" containing 100 boxes of 50 individual rounds of ammo. Some expensive .22 ammo is sold in "Bricks" of 500 rounds. 5,000 CCI is about \$340, where 500 Eley Match is \$150. Arrows are sold by the dozen, so be careful. Some arrows are grouped into five dozen sets for \$240.

11. The Daisy Inflatable BB Range (\$3,000) always raises intense scrutiny. This device has no usefulness for training, rather it is a fun item for the County Fair or similar activity. If you know what it is and know that you need it, include that information in your application. If it is on your list without accompanying documentation it will certainly be denied, and with documentation it may still be denied. None of these has been approved in the last 7 years.

12. Some clubs wildly exaggerate the number of participants that will utilize the equipment provided by the grant. A blatant over-estimation will reduce your credibility with the approval committee.

13. "Double-dipping" is considered as an attempt to cheat the system. One grant request is expected from each County or unit with a 4-H program. Therefore, you cannot submit a request for equipment and a separate request for capital improvement or submit two requests with different names from the same group. There are rare exceptions to this rule for unique cases. If there is a question on this, ask before submitting.

14. Morrell NASP Target \$240, Rinehart NASP Target \$430 (2023 estimates)

15. **The only BB gun suitable for competition is the Daisy 499.** The following BB guns are considered by many people as toys (junk) and not even useful for training, since they are inaccurate and break easily:

- John Wayne and Annie Oakley BB guns
- Crossman 2100 air rifle
- Daisy Model 1910 air rifle

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16. Trailers. If you ask for a trailer, you will only get your “fair share” of funding and you will need to raise the remaining money yourself. For example, in 2024 the XXXX Club asked for \$7,000 to purchase a trailer. The “fair share” for 2024 was \$4,000, so they needed to provide \$3,000 to make the purchase. They worked a deal with the trailer dealership to only pay \$5,500 so they only needed to provide an additional \$1,500. If you cannot raise the extra funds, you must not request a trailer or anything else that exceeds the expected “fair share”.

17. Requesting any Eley or Lapua ammo brings automatic scrutiny and is unlikely to pass without substantial documentation.

18. If in doubt, ask for help. However, asking for help the day before the deadline is not wise. You can call Lynn Wheelless at (575) 778-1078 for advice. Jinx Baney, Robert Tillotson, and Paul Benneche are good sources of advice as well.

19. Here is the website to start your grant request:
<https://www.nrafoundation.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/>

Some representative prices from the past

Portable range, 3 point	\$1,672
Champion Choice angled scope	\$115
Stac- On 8-gun cabinet	\$235
Pallet of Clays \$1,200, half pallet	\$600
Genesis bows	\$127
Genesis arrows (60)	\$240
Atlas AT-50 trap	\$750
MEC 100E ATA	\$2,137
Atlas wheel cart	\$200
Challenger shotshells	\$89
Winchester light and heavy	\$97
Winchester AA	\$134
TriStar O/U	\$630
TriStar Compact youth semi	\$522
Ruger American rimfire peep	\$369
Ruger American rimfire	\$330
Wolf muzzleloader 50 cal	\$330
Crosman Challenger Bundle	\$696
Crosman Challenger	\$637
Daisy 499 BB Gun	\$135
Daisy 599 Air Rifle	\$619
Crosman 2300S air pistol	\$254

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FWB cylinder	\$200
Air Venturi Krypton air compressor	\$1,200