



Gulf Breeze Will Do - 2026 Grant Finalists

Gulf Breeze Will Do is proud to announce the finalists for the 2026 grant cycle. Through the diligent work of our grant review committees, our participating Gulf Breeze Will Do members have narrowed the field to the following 10 finalists.

The vote to determine the winners will take place at the Gulf Breeze Will Do Annual Meeting on November 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive.

If members are unable to attend, they may request an absentee ballot. All absentee ballots must be submitted by November 6, 2026 to be counted. Absentee ballots may be requested [here](#).

Finalists are presented by category in alphabetical order.

Each member will vote on their top choice, in each of the four categories

ART, RECREATION & SPORTS

Organization: Gulf Breeze Middle School Band

Project Title: Taking The Show On The Road - Supporting Student Musicians

Grant request: \$6,534.98

Project summary:

I am requesting funding for the Gulf Breeze Middle School Band to purchase an enclosed trailer and accessories to safely and efficiently transport equipment to performances throughout Gulf Breeze and Northwest Florida. Because our campus cannot accommodate a full band concert, we regularly perform at off-site locations.

Transporting our large quantity of instruments, percussion equipment, music stands, sound equipment, and supplies has been a significant challenge. Since adding a jazz band three years ago, our ensembles have expanded their participation in community events, including the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Milton Beats and Eats Festival, and Gulf Breeze Elementary School Fall Carnival.

Currently, we rely on borrowing the Gulf Breeze High School Band truck (which is often unavailable), as well as multiple personal SUVs and uncovered vehicles. This requires multiple trips and leaves valuable equipment vulnerable to weather and damage.

An enclosed, dedicated trailer would provide a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation solution, allowing us to participate in more community events. The trailer will prominently display the GBMS Band logo, along with a "Thank You to Will Do" message and Will Do logo. This grant will directly benefit 185 current band students, thousands of community members, and thousands of future band students.

Organization: Gulf Breeze Senior Center

Project Title: Enhancing Senior Engagement Through Technology

Grant request: \$3,103.39

Project summary:

The Gulf Breeze Senior Center serves older adults in the Gulf Breeze Community by providing programs that promote social connection, lifelong learning, creativity, health and overall well-being. To enhance programming opportunities and improve accessibility for participants, the Center seeks funding for a

multimedia presentation system consisting of a ceiling-mounted projector and retractable top-down projection screen.

Currently, the Center has limited audiovisual capabilities, which restricts the ability to host multimedia presentations, educational workshops and larger group activities. A projector and drop-down screen would significantly expand programming capacity and improve visibility for participants with visual impairments or mobility limitations by allowing information and presentations to be displayed clearly to larger audiences.

The equipment will support a wide range of activities, including educational presentations, exercise and wellness classes, music and entertainment events, guest speakers, technology instruction, health seminars, movies, interactive games and intergenerational community programming. The addition of audiovisual equipment will improve participant engagement, increase access to information, and create a more inclusive and enriching environment for seniors.

Organization: Scouting America Troop 484

Project Title: Building Outdoor Skills, Safety & Service, Troop 484 Equipment Initiative

Grant request: \$2,326.99

Project summary:

Scouting America Troop 484 is seeking funding to refresh and expand the shared camping and outdoor equipment used by approximately 18 Scouts in Gulf Breeze. Our four existing handmade chuck boxes are still usable, and we have determined that they can be repaired and repainted rather than replaced. In keeping with the Scout principle to “be thrifty,” we will use materials already on hand to restore the boxes and direct grant funds toward the equipment inside them that is worn, missing, or inconsistent.

The project will provide standardized cooking and food-preparation equipment for all four patrol boxes, along with four 65-liter hiking backpacks, a comprehensive troop first-aid kit, four 7-gallon water containers, four rechargeable camp-area lights, two shared two-person backpacking tents, and a 10’ X 10’ pop-up canopy.

The goal is to give every patrol reliable, comparable equipment while developing practical skills in cooking, camping, hiking, outdoor safety, teamwork, leadership, stewardship, and service.

EDUCATION

Organization: Gulf Breeze Elementary School

Project Title: Building Victory Tile By Tile

Grant request: \$3,935.29

Project summary:

VersaTiles provides students with meaningful opportunities to strengthen essential math and reading skills through hands-on, independent learning. The system encourages active engagement, critical thinking, and self-monitoring by allowing students to check their own work and make corrections independently. This immediate feedback helps students build confidence, take ownership of their learning, and develop perseverance when working through challenging concepts. The flexible format supports small-group instruction, learning centers, intervention, enrichment, and independent practice, making it a valuable resource for meeting the diverse needs of fifth-grade learners.

In fifth-grade math, VersaTiles reinforces essential concepts including fractions, decimals, multiplication, division, geometry, and problem-solving. In reading, students strengthen vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, figurative language, and critical reading strategies. By combining academic rigor with hands-on learning, VersaTiles helps students build proficiency, confidence, and a growth mindset.

This grant is a long-term investment in student achievement. Gulf Breeze Elementary serves approximately 160 fifth-grade students annually, all of whom will benefit from VersaTiles in both math and reading. With an estimated lifespan of at least 10 years, these durable, reusable materials could impact approximately 1,600 students and provide more than 3,200 full-year learning opportunities, ensuring lasting academic benefits for generations of Gulf Breeze Elementary learners.

Organization: Gulf Breeze High School
Project Title: Kind Frog Dissection Models
Grant request: \$1,000.00
Project summary:

I am requesting \$1,000 from Gulf Breeze Will Do to purchase 200 Kind Frog dissection models at \$5 each for approximately 200 10th grade biology students.

The Kind Frog is a silicone-based leopard frog model that provides a humane, engaging, and accessible alternative to traditional preserved-animal dissection while maintaining the educational value of hands-on anatomy instruction. Each student will receive an individual model featuring anatomically correct, color-coded organs, including the heart, lungs, liver, ovaries, and other structures. Students will use the models during an anatomy and dissection unit to identify, examine, and discuss organ structure and function.

Unlike preserved specimens, Kind Frogs are liquid-free and toxin-free, require no biohazard disposal, produce no unpleasant odors, and can be reused for multiple classes and school years. Individual access increases participation, allows repeated practice, and supports stronger understanding of structure and function. Students can record observations, explain evidence, and revisit the models during review or assessment preparation. The project reflects modern science education best practices by emphasizing inclusive participation, inquiry, collaboration, ethical decision-making, sustainability, hands-on modeling, and evidence-based explanation. It provides a practical alternative that preserves rigorous anatomy instruction while making laboratory learning safer, more accessible, and more environmentally responsible.

Organization: Soundside High School ESE Department
Project Title: Empowering Students Through A School-Based Poster and Banner Production Program
Grant request: \$9,904.65
Project summary:

The School-Based Poster & Banner Enterprise will give high school students with special needs an authentic, hands-on opportunity to build employability skills by creating and producing posters, banners, signs, and other visual materials for schools and community organizations. Students will participate in a structured, school-based enterprise that mimics a real workplace, learning to communicate with customers, follow work orders, use design and production equipment, manage materials, meet deadlines, complete quality checks, package finished products, and provide professional customer service.

The project will turn classroom learning into meaningful employment preparation by letting students practice skills in a purposeful, inclusive, community-connected environment. Revenue made through the sale of posters and banners will be returned to the program, helping create a business that can continue to provide work-based learning opportunities for students.

HARDSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES

Note: We had only one qualifying applicant for this category, so this grant will have a yes or no vote. If no votes outweigh yes votes, the funds reserved for this category will transfer to the next highest scoring grant in another category.

Organization: Santa Rosa Education Foundation

Project Title: Take Stock In Children Laptop & Backpack Program

Grant request: \$2,902.47

Project summary:

Take Stock in Children (TSIC) is a state-wide organization founded in 1995 in response to the need for a program that provides more than financial assistance to our economically disadvantaged college-bound students. Operating locally under the Santa Rosa Education Foundation, students are selected from across the county, including Gulf Breeze, and receive a caring mentor, student advocacy, one-on-one college and career readiness, as well as a college scholarship. A few years back, students at Gulf Breeze High School who volunteered with fundraising for TSIC realized the graduates needed materials to help them succeed in college mainly a laptop and backpack. This year, we are asking Gulf Breeze Will Do for a grant to cover these costs for our three Gulf Breeze High School TSIC 2027 graduates.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Organization: Gulf Breeze Elementary School

Project Title: H2 Oh No! It's Time To Replace The Outdoor Water Fountain

Grant request: \$2,843.99

Project summary:

You've been there: backpacks on the floor, shoes in the walkway, a snack trail in the kitchen, and half-empty (sometimes designer) water bottles in the kitchen sink. While all of these are essential school needs, none are as important as an adequate water source. We request a new filtered water cooler to replace our aging system. This will support our students by providing a safe, clean, temperature controlled option for students to receive hydration while enjoying the great outdoors.

Over 800 children at Gulf Breeze play outside daily during recess and physical education. Events and club activities such as the Color Run, Bike Fest, Running Club, Dolphin Olympics, and Fall Festival are held outdoors with no unlimited access to a water source. We all know that Florida is the Sunshine State- and sunshine is HOT. We need your help keeping kids, teachers, and volunteers hydrated during school activities.

Organization: Gulf Breeze Middle School

Project Title: Protecting Every Heart

Grant request: \$10,000

Project summary:

Sudden cardiac arrest can occur without warning and can affect individuals of all ages. In a cardiac emergency, every second matters. Immediate access to an AED can significantly improve a person's chance of survival.

Our campus experienced a tremendous loss of a beloved PE coach in 2025. Coach Mark Stringfellow was a loved PE teacher, coach, husband, friend, father, son and loved in his community. He collapsed suddenly on a back PE field, and our closest AED was in the main building several yards away. We were able to get an AED from GBHS faster than we could get to ours. I replay that day repeatedly and I can't help but wonder IF we had an AED within seconds versus minutes, would the outcome have been different. In my opinion, having an AED closer would not have changed the outcome, but I do know that if an AED had been easily accessible, I would not be wondering if.... Staff and first responders did everything to save him, unfortunately we were unsuccessful. Our school and community will never forget this tragic loss, but with additional AED's in more accessible locations, hopefully we can prevent another loss of life.

Organization: Midway Fire District

Project Title: Firefighter Personal Thermal Imaging Safety Program

Grant request: \$9,708.59

Project summary:

The Seek FirePRO 300 is a personal Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) which is a critical firefighter safety tool that can significantly improve a firefighter's ability to operate safely inside a burning structure. Unlike the human eye, a TIC detects heat and provides a visual image through smoke, darkness, and poor visibility. This allows firefighters to identify victims, locate the source of a fire, recognize hidden heat, and maintain better situational awareness. In comparative studies, crews without a TIC missed victims 60% of the time, while those utilizing a TIC achieved a 99% find rate with significantly reduced search times.

For the Midway Fire District, providing firefighters with personal TICs directly supports the safety of residents in the 32561 and 32563 ZIP Codes as the Midway Fire District is a mutual aid partner with the City of Gulf Breeze. During a structure fire, seconds can determine whether a trapped occupant is located and rescued. A firefighter equipped with a personal TIC can immediately use the device upon entering a hazardous environment.

Investing in personal thermal imaging technology protects both the firefighter and the citizens they serve, improving the District's ability to conduct safer and more effective fire suppression and rescue operations.