

2026 EVENT HOSTING CO-OP FUNDING PROGRAM

Program Guidelines



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INTRODUCTION

The Tourism Golden Event Hosting Co-op Funding Program was launched in late 2019. Funded primarily by the Resort Municipality Initiative under a contribution agreement with the Town of Golden, the program offers up to 50% co-op funding for event hosting expenses incurred within the DMO boundary. It aims to facilitate the attraction, retention and growth of new and existing sporting and cultural events that serve to increase visitation and tourism revenues in Golden and CSRD Area A and to raise awareness of Golden's ability to host sizable events.

Applications are assessed by the Tourism Golden Co-op Program Committee according to the program guidelines with final approval by the TG Board of Directors.

PROGRAM GOALS

- To attract new or enhanced events to Golden and support existing events to reach their potential.
- To increase awareness of Golden as a vacation destination.
- To increase visitation from target markets and maximize tourism revenues.

PURPOSE

- To support **local hosting costs** for events that align with the marketing strategies and goals of Tourism Golden and support the destination brand essence of Authentic Adventure.
- To raise awareness of Golden as a multi-day destination offering many exceptional experiences.
- To support **new, expanded, or annually** recurring events taking place within the Tourism Golden DMO area, defined as *'that part of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District consisting of the Town of Golden and Electoral Area A not including Yoho National Park.'*¹
- To leverage 3rd party investment to achieve greater marketing impact and drive tourism revenues.

GUIDELINES

- Funding under this program may only be used for eligible event hosting and operational costs stipulated in this document incurred by the organiser in engaging businesses and services located within the DMO boundary.
- There is no submission deadline. Applications are assessed on a first-come, first-served basis and accepted until the program funding for the fiscal year is fully allocated.
- The event must take place no less than 60 days and no more than 11 months after the application if the application is for a single event. Multi-year applications may be considered.
- Event organizers must demonstrate policies and practices that include diversity and inclusivity. Appendix D
- The event must be a tourism event whose purpose is to attract visitors and raise destination awareness.

¹ Provincial Sales Tax Act S.B.C. 2012,c.35,s.240 Order in Council #119, approved and ordered March 06, 2017.

- The event must be actively promoted to one or more of the geographic locations, EQ and activity segments identified in the Tourism Golden annual marketing plan (See Appendix B – Target Markets).
- Events must support the goals and objectives of the Tourism Golden Strategic Plan 2022-2027. (See Appendix C – Strategic Objectives)
- There should be no duplication of funding from federal, provincial, or other funding programs.
- Applicants must be a registered company, not-for-profit or charity demonstrating a history of successful event management.
- Applicants must demonstrate an ability to match the maximum funding amount on eligible costs.
- Matching funds will be given by Tourism Golden for eligible local hosting expenses up to a maximum of 50% of the approved total.
- In-kind contributions do not qualify for matching funds.
- Event organisers are required to submit a post-event expense report within 90 days of the event using the Tourism Golden expense report template. No payment will be issued until this report has been submitted and approved by Tourism Golden.
- Event organisers are required to submit a media and marketing wrap-up report within 90 days of the event consisting of how the event was marketed (Channels, publications, influencers etc), the estimated impressions/reach from the marketing and a list of all immediate media output from the event. No payment will be issued until the wrap-up report is received.
- Event organisers are required to submit an event performance measures report, which includes participant numbers, spectator numbers, and an economic impact report (party size, in-destination spend, demographics)
- An invoice and supporting documentation for a claim up to the approved amount must be made no more than 60 days after the event. No advance of the approved funding will be made.
- If an event is cancelled, the funding agreement becomes void.
- Events that utilize the trail systems around Golden can only use sanctioned trails unless they have received authorization from recreation sites and Trails BC to use other trails.
- An event organizer may put in multiple applications so long as the events do not occur within 60 days of each other or are part of different activity Sectors as outlined in Appendix B.

Application Criteria & Evaluation:

Given the limited funding available, consideration will only be given to application submissions that include:

- A completed program application form.
- A complete event budget (only required for the Golden event if this is part of a multi-destination series).

- Event outline including:
 - Event details
 - Expected participant and spectator numbers
 - Marketing and media outreach plan.
 - Performance measures e.g. participant or spectator numbers, ticket sales, estimated impressions or media equivalency or other specific to the event.
- Confirmation of how the visual identity of Tourism Golden will be represented.

Applications will be evaluated on the demonstration of

- Robustness of the event's business and marketing plan, including performance measures,
- Ability to increase awareness of Golden as a vacation destination in target markets.
- The economic benefit to Golden through increased visitation and tourism revenues from target markets.
- Event history and/or organiser experience in managing similar events.

Eligible Costs

- Accommodation in Tourism Golden member accommodations offering confirmed room blocks and group rates. A member list is available on request or can be viewed at tourismgolden.com/accommodations.
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages incurred for official events and event staff or athlete meetings.
- Event staff and athletes' per diems are eligible if included in the event budget and specifically pre-approved by Tourism Golden. A list of eligible event staff & athletes along with expected per diem dates must be submitted with the application for pre-approval. Specific Names do not need to be submitted. Any additional per diems submitted on the final expense form will not be accepted. Per diems may not include the day of departure if that departure is before noon and are limited to a **maximum of \$63.75 CAD** per individual per day based on the British Columbia Provincial Government Group II per diem rates as listed below.

○ Breakfast (leave before 7 am)	\$25.50
○ Lunch (leave before noon)	\$25.50
○ Dinner (leave after 6 pm)	\$35.25
○ Breakfast & Lunch	\$37.00
○ Breakfast & Dinner	\$46.75
○ Lunch & Dinner	\$46.75
○ Full Day Per Diem	\$63.75
- Ground transportation is provided by a Tourism Golden member business.
- Golden event management, operations, media, or other services provided by a resident of Golden.
- Safety and medical services, or a donation to Golden and Area Search & Rescue for safety services. The amount cannot exceed \$5000 CAD.

- Flagging and traffic management services provided by a Golden-based business.
- Rental of a local space or equipment to be used for activities directly related to the event.

All eligible costs must be supported by itemized receipts or itemized invoices with a registered business number.

Ineligible Costs

- Any costs incurred outside of the DMO boundary.
- In-kind contributions (e.g. event staff time, expertise, hosting, transportation, or food costs).
- Capital and operating costs (e.g. wages, phone, office equipment and supplies)
- GST, PST and MRDT amounts.
- Alcoholic beverages and gratuities.
- Promotional or marketing materials or media buys.
- Development of business plans and/or application submission.
- Membership or registration fees.
- Capital equipment.
- Prize money
- Items covered by other grant funding or sponsorship.
- Travel trade or media hosting. Additional support may be considered by Tourism Golden upon request.
- Any non-receipted expense.
- Donations to any non-profit or government organizations

Funding

TG will give matching funding for eligible hosting expenses up to a maximum of 50%.

- Minimum funding request of \$500 per event.
- Maximum funding of \$10,000 per event. Larger amounts may be considered subject to a multi-year commitment to hold the event in Golden, event audience and estimated marketing equivalency value or economic benefit.
- Funding is issued following event completion and the submission of an event expense report that Tourism Golden provided. All itemized receipts, invoices and payment details must be included with the completed event expense report, even if the expenses exceed the approved funding amount.

Procedure

- ↓ Complete the application form accompanied by an event outline including goals, objectives, and target market, *Incomplete applications will not be considered.*
- ↓ Evaluation by TG Co-op Program Committee,
- ↓ Project & amount approval by the TG board,
- ↓ Signing of Contribution Agreement,
- ↓ Provision of TG branding materials,
- ↓ Approval of event marketing materials featuring TG branding,
- ↓ Event implementation,
- ↓ Submission of both a completed expense report with full documentation, a media and marketing wrap-up report and event performance measures report as outlined in the guidelines section of this document.
- ↓ Approval of both reports by Tourism Golden
- ↓ Submission of a claim invoice for 50% of eligible hosting expenses
- ↓ Issue of TG co-op funds.

Acronyms:

DBC = Destination BC

DMO = Destination Marketing Organisation

GST = General Sales Tax

KPI = Key performance indicators

KRT = Kootenay Rockies Tourism

MRDT = Municipal & Regional District Sales Tax (aka Additional Hotel Tax)

PST = Provincial Sales Tax

ROI = Return on investment

TG = Tourism Golden

Appendix A – Member Definition

“Member” means any proprietorship, partnership, limited company, society or governmental authority that:

- 1. Has a business office registered within Area A or the Town of Golden.*
- 2. Provides as its core business, a commercial tourism operation.*
- 3. Complies with all relevant governmental regulations and bylaws.*
- 4. Carries a minimum of two million dollars in third-party liability insurance; and*
- 5. Participates in at least one marketing activity or other program of the Society not more than fourteen months prior to, and not less than 60 days prior to application submission.*

Appendix B – Target Markets

By Geographic Market

- Canada: Alberta, British Columbia & Ontario
- USA: Washington State, California, New Your State, Texas
- International: United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Australia

By E.Q. (Explorer Quotient):

The **AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCER** – *is a more learned, understated traveller. Travel is not their only interest in life, but they certainly appreciate it when they go. They prefer to do their own thing while at a destination, having control over what they see & when they see it*

The **CULTURAL EXPLORER** – *is an avid traveller who values learning and discovery while travelling. They don’t want to feel like a “tourist,” preferring just to blend in and have the most authentic experience possible rather than being confined to group tours and schedules.*

The **FREE SPIRIT** – *is the traveller’s traveller... they seem to love everything about travel, and as in life, they embrace the experiences it offers with arms open wide.*

NO-HASSLE TRAVELLERS - *are extroverted, flashy people who seek secure group travel, allowing them to be pampered in luxurious surroundings while seeing all the main sights of a destination.*

By Activity Interest Sector:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • National & Provincial Parks | • Festivals |
| • Mountain Biking | • Backcountry, Heli & Cat skiing |
| • Hiking | • Nordic Skiing |
| • Rafting | • Snowmobiling |
| • Fishing | • Family Vacation |
| • Resort Skiing | • Weddings |

Appendix C – Strategic Objectives²

- ☐ Increase target market awareness of Golden as a great destination to visit
- ☐ Establish perceptions of Golden consistent with our brand positioning – brand positioning is known and embraced by target markets and residents
- ☐ Encourage target visitors to make Golden a positive choice of destination in their vacation
- ☐ Encourage day visitors/passing traffic to stay longer and return later as an overnight visitor
- ☐ Increase length of stay
- ☐ Increase the number of overnight visitors
- ☐ Encourage repeat visitation
- ☐ Increase shoulder season visitation and revenues
- ☐ Establish a baseline and show annual improvements in Net Promoter Score
- ☐ Increase funding for Tourism Golden
- ☐ Maintain position as the lead organization in tourism and continuously learn and improve
- ☐ Build strong stakeholder and local support for Tourism Golden and for the overall importance of the tourism industry

Appendix D – Diversity and Inclusivity

In support of the Tourism Golden Event Hosting Co-op Funding Program's goals to grow sport and cultural events, raise destination awareness, and strengthen Golden as a welcoming, multi-day destination, event organizers are expected to plan for inclusive participation and spectator experiences across ability, age, gender identity/expression, culture, language, and socioeconomic background.

Upon request, Tourism Golden may ask for evidence of the following policies or practices:

- ☐ A clear conduct policy for participants, spectators, staff, and volunteers (including expectations for respectful behaviour and a zero-tolerance approach to harassment/discrimination).
- ☐ A simple process for reporting and responding to concerns, including who to contact on-site.
- ☐ Basic steps to reduce barriers for people with disabilities (e.g., accessible routes/viewing areas where feasible, accessible washrooms where available, and a contact for accommodation requests).
- ☐ Where appropriate, event design that supports broad participation (e.g., clear category/division information, adaptive participation considerations where feasible).

² Source Tourism Golden Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027,

- ☐ Event information and marketing that use inclusive language and accessible formats where possible (e.g., clear plain-language event details; captions on videos when used).
- ☐ When applicable the event will award equal prize money across all categories
- ☐ Brief orientation for volunteers/staff on respectful conduct expectations and how to assist with questions or concerns.

Tourism Golden may also request that these considerations be summarized as part of the required post-event reporting.