

## **GRANTS 1, 2, 3 - Should We Apply? Can We Afford to Apply?**

**Presenter: Melinda Booth**

Melinda has been SYRCL's Executive Director since 2017, after having served as Director of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival since 2011. Melinda brings more than 20 years of experience in environmental conservation and advocacy to her leadership. Before joining SYRCL, she focused her career on saving iconic species like bears, wolves, and salmon in the American West. At Defenders of Wildlife, she led campaigns to keep bears alive and wild in the Tahoe basin and helped reintroduce the California Condor back to the wild. As Development Manager at the California Wolf Center, Melinda led education, conservation and research on the North American gray wolf, and specifically the reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves to the Southwest. Her passion for wildlife eventually drew her to the Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation where she served as Development Director, securing millions of dollars for their red panda habitat and an award-winning Native Predator exhibit featuring river otter, bald eagle, and salmon. Concurrently, she taught grant writing at Humboldt State University for the Natural Resources department.

Melinda holds a MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana, where she studied human-bear interactions in the wildland urban interface. Her publications span scientific journals, periodicals, and books.

## **GRANTS 1, 2, 3 - Basics of Application Writing**

**Presenter: Julie Pokrandt**

After graduate school, Julie became the first executive director for a wildlife rehabilitation group in San Diego. There she saw first-hand how devastating habitat loss can be, especially for raptors and songbirds. Urban areas, where streams and wetlands are often sacrificed to development, are tough on wildlife and this inspired her to make a change. She moved to northern California to help put habitat back in the ground and joined a river habitat restoration organization. There, as the development director, she helped recruit members and educate the public on how river systems and riparian areas not only benefit birds, fish and mammals, but people and whole communities too. After working in Tucson with a national environmental organization dedicated to protecting endangered species, Julie was pleased to come back to California where she has served as SYRCL's Development Director since 2015.

## **GRANTS 1, 2, 3 - We Got the Grant, Now What?**

**Presenter: Sandra Barrington**

Sandra Barrington is a Certified Fund Raising Executive and has worked in the nonprofit field for more than 20 years. Sandra is employed with Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation as the Associate Director and has been with the organization for 15 years. Her experience in nonprofits combined with a degree in English from California State University Chico, as well as a certificate in editing and publishing, has led to a successful grant writing career. From securing and managing small private foundation grants to large multi-year federal grants, the team at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation has raised more than \$6million in grant funds since 2007. Sandra was a founding board member and past president of Sierra Harvest, is the president-elect of Grass Valley Rotary, and a trustee for the Nevada City School District. When not working or volunteering, Sandra and her daughter can be found at the river or lake, on their snowboards, walking to town to get cookies from ThreeForks, and spending time with family planning side hustles with her sister.