



2019 GRANTS TO SUPPORT CAMINO INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT FROM AMERICAN PILGRIMS ON THE CAMINO

The Board of Directors of American Pilgrims on the Camino is pleased to report to you the results of the 2019 Camino Infrastructure Grants Program. Our Grants Program is one of the ways that our members can give back to the Camino and fulfill our mission as an organization to develop and improve the infrastructure of the Camino. Since 2008, membership dues as well as special donations designated for the Grants Program have enabled American Pilgrims to make grants in an amount exceeding \$350,000 in support of a variety of Camino projects. Thanks to all of our members for supporting this program! As always, the number of worthy applications exceeded our available funds. However, many projects that will directly benefit pilgrims and the Camino will be supported.

In 2019, American Pilgrims has distributed twelve grants in the total amount of \$49,830. Assisted by twelve reviewers, applications that met program qualifications were reviewed and recommendations for the most needed and well-planned projects were made to the Board. The twelve reviewers are all American Pilgrims members and include former board members, hospitaleros, Chapter coordinators, Gathering presenters and other active members.

Memberships are the primary source of income that supports this program. Perhaps you should consider becoming a member if you aren't already one!

Associació Gerunda: Amics del Camins de Sant Jaume de les Comarques Gironines \$2,029

This grant will contribute towards the expansion of signage on the revived Via Heraclea, an historic and cultural Camino route at Perpignan at the border between France and Spain and the Cataluyan Maresme coast within Girona Province. The regional association is expecting growth in the number of pilgrims on the route approaching from France and the contiguous part of Spain during the Holy Year.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino Mozárabe, Zafra y Comarca \$6,000

As part of an effort to provide to pilgrims on an isolated 50-km stretch on the Via de la Plata (Galisteo to Aldeanueva del Camino) in the vicinity of the Roman ruins near Guijo de Granadilla, the local association has undertaken a project to place and operate two mobile housing units equipped to sleep 8 people each. Our grant will provide about 20% of the financing.

Asociación Córdoba \$2,400

This grant will contribute towards the installation of 60 granite signs on a 244 km segment of the Camino Mozárabe in the province of Córdoba. Each year about 2,000 pilgrims currently traverse this route and the number is increasing. The climate causes yellow arrows and less permanent signs to deteriorate resulting in inadequate signage.

AGACS (Asociación Galega de Amigos do Camino de Santiago)

\$3,525

The Albergue San Roque- Corcubión, a *donativo* located on the busy Muxia route, will receive a grant to expand the pilgrim sleeping area from 14 to 28 beds, build a room for hospitaleros, expand the kitchen and ancillary work.

Asociación de Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago de Madrid

\$4,015

This grant will provide 5 new bunk beds, mattresses and mattress covers for the Albergue in Santevas de Campos near Valladolid on the Camino Madrid, a short distance south of the Meseta portion of the Camino Francés. Approximately 350 pilgrims are projected to stay in this albergue this year, 400 in 2020 and more than 500 in 2021, a Holy Year.

Federación Andaluza

\$2,400

This grant supports the multi-year, on-going signage projects on the Camino Mozárabe, specifically in this case on the section between Granada and Jaen in the province of Granada.

Agrupación Bizkaia

\$6,000

Albergue de Pobeña will receive these funds to rehabilitate the walls of this albergue to eliminate wetness and mold. This *donativo* albergue on the Camino del Norte served over 6,600 pilgrims last year.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Burgos

\$5,500

This very busy albergue served over 29,200 pilgrims in 2018, including many of our members. A number of our members have also served as hospitaleros at this albergue. This grant will fund the installation of new flooring in second and third floors to replace and repair broken and pitted floors in pilgrim areas.

Asociación Santiago Badajoz

\$6,000

This grant will support the improvement of safety for pilgrims by creating an alternative path along the Rio Burdalo on to a Roman causeway and installing stepping stones across the small river to divert pilgrims from walking on the highway, which is the currently marked Camino route. This project is on the Camino Mozárabe from Medellin to San Pedro de Merida, an increasingly traveled route.

Albergue Santa Maria Carrión de los Condes

\$4,210

This beloved albergue operated by a religious order of nuns served nearly 9,000 pilgrims from March through October in 2018. It is a popular place for our members to stay and to volunteer as hospitaleros. The grant will fund replacement of mattresses and purchase of mattress coverings.

Santa Casa Azambuja Portugal

\$6,000

As the Camino Portugués grows in popularity, now second only to the Camino Francés, the need for more pilgrim accommodations is increasing. This grant will fund the expansion of beds in this albergue by remodeling an unused room.

Asociación Gaditana Jacobea via Augusta

\$1,200

An increase of 15% in number of pilgrims on the Camino route from Cádiz to Seville on the Via de la Plata is anticipated in the near future. This grant will provide funds to purchase necessary waymarking materials and equipment.

Mission: The mission of American Pilgrims on the Camino is to foster the enduring tradition of the Camino by supporting its infrastructure, by gathering pilgrims together, and by providing information and encouragement to past and future pilgrims.

Vision: We inspire all who seek the spirit of the Camino to connect with the global community of pilgrims.