Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program

Offered by: Canon, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the U.S. National Park Service (USNPS)


Submission Date: Applications must be received no later than 3 May 2007

Eligibility:

• Proposals can be considered only from currently enrolled Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) students at an accredited university within the Americas who are citizens of a country in the Americas. The Americas include Canada, the United States, Mexico, the countries of Central and South America, and the Caribbean.
• At least some portion of the student’s proposed research must take place in—or be significantly and specifically relevant to—one or more national parks in the student’s country of citizenship.
• National parks are those protected areas officially recognized and identified as national parks by the national government of a country in the Americas.
• Students enrolled in universities outside the United States but within the Americas, regardless of citizenship, will compete in the Americas category.
• Students enrolled in universities in the United States, regardless of citizenship, will compete in the US category. An exception is if a non-US citizen is studying at a US university through a formal agreement with the student’s home country university. In such cases, students are eligible to compete in the Americas category. (Please refer to item 2 in the “Application Instructions” below for more details.)
• Students must have completed a majority of their coursework, and be able to complete the proposed dissertation research within three years of receiving an award.

Reward:
In 2007, the program will award eight scholarships based on two separate competitions:
• Four Canon National Parks Science Scholars will be selected from students studying at universities in the United States.
• Four Canon National Parks Science Scholars will be selected from students studying at universities throughout the Americas, but outside the United States.
Each winning student will be awarded a Canon National Parks Science Scholarship of US$80,000 paid in two installments. In addition, Honorable Mentions will be selected from throughout all of the Americas.

Application Process:
Students must submit a complete application packet to be considered for the 2007 Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program. All materials must be submitted in English, with the exception of the student’s official transcript.

1. Application Cover Sheet
The two-page application cover sheet is available as a PDF file at <www.canonscholars.org>. It must be single-sided, completed, and signed by the student and the chair of the student’s dissertation committee. It must include a proposal summary not to exceed 200 words. The summary should clearly identify the name and location of the national park(s) included in the research.

2. Proposal Title Page
The title page should include a) the title of the research proposal, b) the name and university affiliation of the student, and c) the names and university affiliations of all members of the student’s dissertation committee.

(If you are a non-US citizen studying at a US university through a formal agreement with your home country university, and you would like your proposal to be considered in the Americas category, please include the request on this page. Indicate that you are studying at a US university through a formal agreement with your home country university and would like your proposal to be considered in the Americas category. You must include the name of your home country university and a contact person and phone number at that university.)

3. The Proposal
The proposal should include a concise discussion of:
- the research problem,
- key relevant literature,
- theory (and hypotheses if appropriate),
- research methods (including data collection and analysis of results),
- the name and location of the national park(s) included in the research,
- feasibility of obtaining needed research permits for collecting specimens, manipulating natural and/or cultural resources, or collecting information from park visitors,
- current and/or future relevance of the proposed research to national park conservation and/or management, and
- a schedule for completion of the research and dissertation.

Students should pay particular attention to describing the specific research methods to be employed in the research. This may include sampling plans, experimental designs, data collection methods, laboratory techniques, research protocols, statistical tests, and other aspects of the research methods (qualitative or quantitative) necessary for a full evaluation of the proposal.

Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposed project with national park staff prior to submitting a proposal. However, letters of support from park staff are not encouraged and will not be considered in the application process.

The proposal must be single-spaced and single-sided. All text in the proposal must be in 11 point or larger type. All pages should have one-inch margins. The proposal must be no longer than 10 pages in length, including references, bibliography, notes, graphs, maps, charts, tables, photographs, and other materials. Proposals longer than 10 pages will not be accepted.

4. Resume or Vitae
The resume or vitae should include only the following information:
- name and contact information,
- all education and degrees beyond high school,
- all relevant work experience within the last ten (10) years or less,
• a maximum of five (5) peer-reviewed publications,
• a maximum of five (5) other publications,
• a maximum of five (5) other scholarly activities, and
• additional awards, service, and other experience relevant to the research proposal.

The resume or vitae must be single-spaced, single-sided, use 11 point or larger type, and have one-inch margins.

Please do not send a full resume or vitae.

5. Transcript
An official copy of the transcript for all graduate coursework at the student’s current university must be included. The transcript need not be in English; if university policy requires that the transcript be sent directly from the university to the program office, this should be noted in the application packet. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the official transcript is received by the application deadline. Transcripts of coursework at other universities are not required and should not be included.

6. Letter of Recommendation
The chair of the student’s dissertation committee is responsible for preparing a signed letter of recommendation on official university letterhead. The letter should be single-sided and state the following:
• The student is currently enrolled in the university and has completed a majority of the required coursework for a doctoral degree.
• The student’s proposal as submitted has been accepted by the dissertation committee and the student has the committee’s approval to proceed with the research.
• The student’s coursework adequately prepares the student for the dissertation research.
• The student can successfully complete the proposed research within three years.

In addition, the letter should evaluate the student’s overall scholarly ability and capacity to complete the proposed research.

One copy of the complete application packet should be submitted. It must be received no later than 3 May 2007. Students are strongly encouraged to use an express mail service; late proposals cannot be considered. The packet should be mailed to:

Dr. Gary E. Machlis, Director*
The Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program
College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho
Sixth and Line Streets, Room 16*
Moscow, ID 83844-1133, USA*
Phone: 208.885.7054*

Information Contact: Program Director, Dr. Gary Machlis.