
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Murie Science and Learning Center
Denali National Park and Preserve

MSLC Science Education Grants

2018 Application Instructions and Guidelines

Proposals due February 1, 2018



Past MSLC grant projects: High school students participate in an archaeological survey near Bering Land Bridge; high school and college students perform internships at Museum of the North to complete a small mammal collection for Denali; local youth participate in an 11-day stewardship expedition in Wrangell St. Elias.

Background

The mission of the Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) is to promote science and stewardship on behalf of national parks in Alaska. The MSLC Science Education Grants provide financial support so that you – staff at Alaska national parks and partner organizations – can do projects and offer programs that engage locals and visitors with park science. Funding for these grants is provided by Alaska Geographic using proceeds from educational programs offered through the MSLC.

Grant Criteria

Projects will be favored in the rating process if they:

1. Serve youth (age 0-25) and introduce new audiences to park sciences (we are particularly interested in funding youth camps and internships for high school, university, and graduate students);

2. Increase one or more park unit's capacity to share current park science initiatives and results with the public;
3. Are innovative and creative, discrete, tangible, and likely to result in outcomes that are inspiring to MSLC and Alaska Geographic visitors and supporters.

A budget of \$3,000 - \$8,000 is suggested, although larger, high-impact projects are also encouraged.

Who Can Apply

Park service educators and scientists are the most common grant applicants. **NPS partners** including schools, universities, and non-profits are also encouraged to apply. Partners must demonstrate substantial park involvement by providing a letter of support from a park superintendent or chief at the benefitting park. Applicants may submit and receive funding for more than one proposal.

We also particularly encourage **NPS researchers** to apply for grant funding to pay for science communication interns. These media-savvy young adults are great at turning research results into exciting web summaries, social media posts, articles for generalist audiences, school programs, etc.

Important Dates

Applications for the Science Education Grants are due annually on February 1st. Awards will be announced as soon as possible (ideally by February 15). Grant projects should be initiated by September 1, 2018 and all monies spent and project components completed by December 31, 2018 unless an exception is granted by the project administrator.

Deliverables and Reporting Requirements

The reporting requirements for this program are easy but important. Each grant recipient is required to provide the MSLC with two short (100 – 150 words each), [engaging project summaries for the MSLC website](#): a project overview (due with application materials), and a final summary upon the project's completion. Each summary must be accompanied by 1-3 high-quality .jpg photos. MSLC staff will revise the summaries, post them on the MSLC website, and make the post available for the receiving park to share as well. Alaska Geographic may also share the successes of your project through their social media, website, and newsletters.

Acknowledgement Requirements for Communication about the Project

The grant funds represent the proceeds of fee-based education programs offered by Alaska Geographic in partnership with National Park Service through the Murie Science and Learning Center. Because of this, all press and promotional materials must explicitly acknowledge Alaska Geographic as a project funder and the Murie Science and Learning Center for program coordination. One way to phrase this is: "This project was partially funded by Alaska Geographic through the Science Education Grant program of the Murie Science and Learning Center."

Application Process

Applicants must submit the following information electronically as a .pdf or Word document. Photos may be embedded in these documents, but should also be attached separately as high-quality .jpgs.

- Project overview:
 - Project leader and assistant(s): titles, email addresses and phone numbers
 - Project title
 - Total amount of funds requested
 - Proposed dates and duration of project
- Project description and justification (300 - 500 words)
- Measurable results (200 - 400 words)
- Budget, including description of how all monies would be paid. These grant funds are non-governmental and are not subject to the same budgetary restrictions as NPS funds. The usage or transfer of the funds will be worked out individually with the grant recipient. That said, simplicity and ease of payments is a significant component of successful applications. Payments must be limited to two installments and must take one or more of the following forms:
 - Payment to a contractor or agency (simple invoice required)
 - Reimbursement for one or more purchases incurred (receipts required)
 - Direct purchase made by Alaska Geographic (vendor invoice, pre-order form, or completed 'shopping cart' details required)
 - NPS applicants should pursue the use of Direct Support funds through their park or the Region account before applying for MSLC grant monies to pay for food used in educational activities.
- Project proposal summary for general audiences. This summary may be posted verbatim online, so make it exciting and understandable (100 – 150 words)
- One to three high-quality, public domain .jpg photos that forecast what will happen during the project for posting online
- (non-NPS applicants only) Letter of support from park superintendent or chief

Project Administrator

All questions and applications should go to Sierra McLane, NPS Director, Murie Science and Learning Center; sierra_mclane@nps.gov; 907.683.6436.

About Alaska Geographic

The MSLC Science Education Grants are funded through education programs offered through the Murie Science and Learning Center in Denali National Park and Preserve. Through a variety of science-based education and outreach efforts, Alaska Geographic provides much of the financial support for the MSLC. Alaska Geographic is a nonprofit dedicated to connecting people to our public lands and has been an active public lands partner in Alaska since 1959. To learn more, visit www.alaskageographic.org.

