



MSLC Science Education Grants

2020 Application Instructions and Guidelines

Proposals due February 15, 2020



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. Funding for these grants is provided by Alaska Geographic using proceeds from educational programs offered through the MSLC.

Project Criteria

MSLC Science Education Grant funds should support a project that serves youth (age 0-30) and introduce new audiences to park science. Projects should be innovative and creative, discrete, tangible, and likely to result in outcomes that are inspiring to MSLC and Alaska Geographic visitors and supporters.

Budgets of \$3,000 - \$8,000 are typical, although larger, high-impact projects are also encouraged.

The funds are non-federal and are bounded by the calendar year rather than the fiscal year. Projects must be initiated by September 1, and all monies spent and project components completed by December 31 annually.

Who Can Apply

Park service educators and scientists are the most common grant applicants. **NPS partners** including schools, universities, tribes, 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 division lead at the benefitting park. Applicants may submit and receive funding for more than one proposal.

Fund Administration

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 from Alaska Geographic to the receiving park will be worked out individually with each grant recipient. Simplicity and ease of payments is a significant component of successful applications. Payments should ideally be limited to two installments and must take one or more of the following forms:

- Arrange for the Alaska Geographic funds to be transferred to a 501c3 nonprofit park partner via a simple invoice and include a copy of the organization's w-9 tax information.
- Arrange for the Alaska Geographic funds to be transferred to an NPS account and make purchases via government procurement procedures.
- Set-up a Vendor Account between Alaska Geographic and your chosen retailer – this will allow Alaska Geographic to make payment directly to the vendor (note – an Alaska Geographic charge account with the Alaska Commercial Store has been created).
- Create an online shopping cart and share it with the Alaska Geographic grant coordinator who will then make the final payment.
 - **Note:** Grant funds cannot be used to pay for NPS staff salaries or travel, or to reimburse NPS employees for purchases made with personal funds.

Application Deadlines and Requirements

Applicants must submit the following information electronically as a .pdf or Word document by **February 15th**.

- Project overview:
 - Project title
 - Project leader and assistant(s): titles, email addresses and phone numbers
 - Total amount of funds requested
 - Proposed dates and duration of project
- Project description, justification, and measurable results (300 - 500 words).
- Simple budget, including short descriptions of how all monies would be paid.
- Short, exciting project description to be posted online (100 – 150 words). Please write in the future tense describing what the project will accomplish. **Check out the [Science Education Grant](#) webpage for examples of summaries from past years, and see below for an example that you can use as a template.**

- One or two high-quality, public domain .jpg photos (emailed as separate files please – not just embedded in the application) that forecast what will happen during the project for posting online. Please include photo credits in the document name ('NPS Photo' is fine).
- (non-NPS applicants only) Letter of support from park superintendent or chief.

Final Reporting Requirements

Upon completion of the project, grant recipient must provide the MSLC with a short (100 – 150 words), [exciting project summary for the MSLC website](#) and 1-3 high-quality .jpg photos (emailed as separate files with project name and photo credits in the document name, please). The project summary can often be an updated version of the initial project description.

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.

Funding Acknowledgments

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. All press and promotional materials should explicitly acknowledge Alaska Geographic as a project funder and the National Park Service for program administration. One way to phrase this is: “Funding for this project was provided by Alaska Geographic using proceeds from educational programs offered in partnership with the National Park Service.”

About Alaska Geographic

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. Through a variety of science-based education and outreach efforts, Alaska Geographic provides much of the financial support for the MSLC. To learn more, visit www.alaskageographic.org.

Example Project Descriptions

Initial Project Description (due with application materials)

Science Camp at Bering Land Bridge National Preserve: Camp Iyat at Serpentine Hot Springs will bring 14 middle school students from the Bering Strait region to Bering Land Bridge National Preserve to perform citizen science in a remote Alaskan ecosystem. The primary focus of this four-day program is to help students understand and appreciate exciting, real-world science. Students will learn how to conduct field research from National Park Service scientists and educators. Through this program, the National Park Service will foster stewardship and innovation among emerging 21st Century citizens.

Final Project Description (due upon project completion)

Science Camp at Bering Land Bridge National Preserve: Bering Land Bridge National Preserve hosted Camp Iyat (formerly known as BioBlitz) in July, 2018. Camp Iyat is a science-focused multiday adventure at Serpentine Hot Springs. Fourteen middle school students from throughout the Bering Strait region joined scientists, community volunteers, and park rangers to explore Arctic biodiversity. Although the weather kept us in Nome this year, the campers had a blast exploring the tundra ecosystem through hikes, birdwatching, insect investigation, team-building games, satellite telemetry practice, art, and more!