



Application Instructions and Guidelines for Research Grants at Shenandoah National Park

Shenandoah National Park Trust Research Grant Program



Background

The National Park Service faces a number of increasingly complex issues that threaten the integrity of natural ecosystems, cultural resources, and visitor experiences at Shenandoah National Park. To prevent the degradation or impairment of these park values, park managers must be aware of and understand the causes and consequences of these threats. The successful management and protection of Shenandoah National Park therefore depend upon scientifically credible and timely answers to important questions. Research is one important tool used by the National Park Service to meet its stewardship responsibilities.

To facilitate and encourage scientific research in Shenandoah National Park, a research grant program is being offered:

Shenandoah National Park Trust Research Grant Program: Supporters of the Shenandoah National Park Trust (<http://www.snptrust.org>) have generously donated to fund an annual grant for scientific activities. This program will support field research in the physical, biological, ecological, social, and cultural sciences. The intent of this grant is to support projects conducted in the park and helping to answer questions important to park resources. Grants are managed by Shenandoah National Park and up to \$15,000 will be awarded annually.

Shenandoah National Park offers an ideal natural laboratory in which to study a wide variety of research topics. Important science issues at the park include, but are not limited to, air pollution, water quality, habitat fragmentation, invasive exotic species, rare species conservation, recreation impacts on visitor experiences and natural resources, restoration of disturbed natural and cultural landscapes, and a lack of baseline data about the park's natural and cultural resources. Shenandoah National Park offers a diversity of landscapes, including hardwood forest, rocky outcrops, mountain streams, and open meadows.

Eligibility

The grant is intended to support field research at Shenandoah National Park. The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students, college and university faculty, state and federal agency scientists, private-sector research professionals, and others with appropriate backgrounds and credentials. Grant recipients must be self-directed individuals whose work will contribute to the scientific knowledge of the natural and cultural resources of Shenandoah National Park.

Funds may be used for a variety of purposes including salary support; room, board, and travel directly associated with field work; supplies; and analytical costs. Requests for permanent equipment are not encouraged but will be considered; any permanent equipment purchased with grant funds becomes the property of the Shenandoah National Park Trust and subsequently will be donated to the park. Funds cannot be used for tuition, costs associated with attendance at professional meetings, publishing results, thesis preparation, fringe benefits, or institutional overhead.

In general, funding for a given project will be limited to one year only – deadlines for deliverables may extend until the next year upon request. Individuals receiving an award in one year may apply for a different project in subsequent years. Maximum grant awards are \$15,000, and projects with matching funds are encouraged, but not required. If requested and available, logistical support such as park office and work space, computers, and reduced-cost housing may be provided to investigators.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel based on the following criteria:

- (1) Potential for the research to enhance the scientific knowledge of the park's natural or cultural resources;

- (2) Ability to inform resource management decision making;
- (3) Technical and scientific merit of the proposal;
- (4) Demonstrated ability of the investigator to carry out the proposed research; and
- (5) Availability of other financial and in-kind support for the project.

Proposals that offer new research or add new elements to existing work are encouraged, rather than the extension or continuation of existing work.

Requirements of Award Recipients

Individuals receiving a **Shenandoah National Park Trust Research Grant** will be required to:

- (1) Obtain a valid research permit from the National Park Service and fulfill all attendant conditions of the park research permit process (for additional information and specific requirements for NPS research permits, visit the park's website at: <http://www.nps.gov/shen/naturescience/research.htm>
- (2) Sign a release allowing Shenandoah National Park Trust and the National Park Service to use photographs of themselves and summaries of their research results in informational materials, catalogues, and fundraising.
- (3) Conduct a public presentation about their Shenandoah National Park research.
- (4) Provide the National Park Service with a written report on the accomplishments of the project, including a summary of research objectives, methods, and results.
- (5) Provide the National Park Service with an expense report at the conclusion of the project.
- (6) Provide the National Park Service with copies of project data, metadata, and photographs for the Shenandoah National Park archives.
- (7) Be available for Shenandoah National Park Trust donor acknowledgements.

Important Dates

- August - Announcement/ Begin accepting applications
- October 31 - Applications Due
- December 1 - Grant Award Announcement

Final reports and other proposed deliverables are due within six months of completion of field work. Awards will be disbursed in two payments: 75% at the outset of field work, and the remaining 25% when all specified project deliverables have been received by the National Park Service.

Application Process

Individuals interested in applying for the **Shenandoah National Park Trust Research Grant** must submit one electronic copy [MS Word (.doc), PDF (.pdf), or rich text (.rtf) format] of the following:

- A completed application cover sheet (attached below)
- A research proposal (**1,500 words or less**) that contains the following sections, with headings:
 - (1) project title
 - (2) background
 - (3) research objectives
 - (4) methods
 - (5) requests for park equipment, materials, housing, and/or work space
 - (6) project budget (including any matching funds received and/or anticipated)
 - (7) project timeline
 - (8) annotated list of project deliverables
- A resume (two-page limit) highlighting key professional details and research experience, and listing up to five publications most relevant to the proposal.
- *If applicable*, a letter of support from an academic advisor or principal investigator.

Questions and proposal submissions should be directed to:

Chief of Natural and Cultural Resource Management
Shenandoah National Park
3655 US HWY 211 E
Luray, VA 22835

e-mail: jim_schaberl@nps.gov
voice: 540-999-3500 x3493
fax: 540-999-3693



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natural and Cultural
Resources Division

Shenandoah National Park
3655 HWY 211 E
Luray, VA 22835

540 999 3500 x3491 phone
540 999 3693 fax

Shenandoah National Park Trust Research Fellowship Proposal Cover Sheet

Investigator Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project Title: _____

Amount of Funds Requested: _____

Potential Matching Funds (if applicable): _____

Proposed Dates and Duration: _____

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.