



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2025 | Research Grant

October 1, 2024

Western
National Parks
Association

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YOUR RESEARCH MATTERS TO OUR NATIONAL PARKS

National parks preserve critical natural and cultural resources. The continued preservation of these public lands relies on rigorous scientific research and the careful management of their unique ecosystems and historical assets. Your work as a researcher is instrumental in ensuring that these parks remain protected and appreciated by future generations.

As an education partner of the National Park Service, Western National Parks Association (WNPA) funds scientific, historical, and social science research in national parks to advance their management, preservation, and interpretation. Research funded by WNPA not only enhances our understanding of complex ecosystems and historical contexts but also helps inform practical solutions for park stewardship and visitor engagement.

A key goal is interpretation—translating research findings into meaningful, accurate narratives that foster understanding, engagement, and a sense of stewardship among visitors. We encourage proposals that include plans for developing interpretive products that translate research into accessible formats for the public. This can include workshops, presentations, maps, guidebooks, and educational materials, ensuring that research reaches and resonates with park visitors. Collaboration between principal investigators, park superintendents, and chief interpreters ensures the research is effectively integrated into park programs.

Supporting research advances both knowledge and public appreciation for our national parks. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the ecosystems and stories they preserve, potentially sparking a greater sense of connection and responsibility among diverse audiences. We look forward to learning more about your research and its contributions to the National Park Service and WNPA missions.

Thank you for your continued dedication to advancing the understanding and protection of our national parks.

Marie Buck
President and Chief Executive Officer
Western National Parks Association



GENERAL INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

Western National Parks Association (WNPA) provides grants to support research that benefits the management, preservation, and interpretation of National Park Service (NPS) resources. This program enhances NPS's research efforts by bringing additional support to vital projects within our partner parks.

At the heart of WNPA is a commitment to advancing research and interpretation that deepens the understanding and appreciation of national parks. This grant program supports projects that contribute to conservation and stewardship of these treasured natural and cultural resources while making their stories more accessible and meaningful to all visitors. By encouraging inclusive and authentic interpretation, WNPA seeks to foster meaningful connections between diverse communities and the national parks, ensuring these public spaces are engaging and relevant for everyone.

GRANT PROCESS

- Proposals are typically generated in one of two ways:
 - NPS official determines a need for research and finds a primary principal investigator (PI).
 - Researcher contacts the park with an idea for research.
- Submissions must be completed electronically through the WNPA web portal from October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The full RFP, including guidelines and application samples, is also available for download in PDF format on the web portal. [WNPA Web Portal | Research Grants](#)
- WNPA Research Committee evaluates submitted grant proposals and makes decisions regarding funding awards.
- Parks and the primary PI will be notified by email of funding decisions the week of February 10, 2025.
- Those approved for funding will receive an electronic copy of the 2025 WNPA Grant Awardee Handbook.
 - This document includes the grant agreement, which requires electronic signatures of the benefiting/host park superintendent, chief of interpretation, and primary PI as the final step in the grant approval process.
 - The handbook will be routed for signatures through DocuSign.
 - Once fully executed by all parties, a final copy will be delivered to all signers automatically by DocuSign.

FUNDING CRITERIA

WHERE WE FUND

Grant projects must originate in a WNPA-partner park in Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. A listing of partner parks can be found on page 15 or visit [WNPA | Discover Our Parks](#).

WHAT WE FUND

WNPA supports a wide range of scholarly research across various disciplines, including but not limited to anthropology, archaeology, botany, citizen science, ecology, geology, history, natural history, social science, and zoology. Proposals that contribute to the understanding and preservation of natural and cultural resources within our parks are particularly encouraged.

WHO MAY APPLY

- Consideration will also be given to proposals submitted by active NPS employees.
- Graduate students may not serve as primary project PIs but may be listed as a co-PI if the primary PI is the academic supervisor.
- A single park may submit no more than two proposals every year.
- Superintendents submitting more than one proposal in a year must rank each proposal in terms of its priority for park needs.

HOW MUCH WE FUND

The funding limit for research grants is \$20,000 for one-year projects; \$40,000 for two-year projects; and \$60,000 for three-year projects. For information regarding multiyear funding, see the section titled Multiyear Projects on page 4.

GRANT GUIDELINES

RESEARCH PROJECT START DATE

Proposals must reflect a start date **no earlier than March 15, 2025**, and **no later than September 30, 2025**.

BUDGET

- Travel, equipment, and supplies required by a PI to conduct their research must appear on the budget form and be explained in detail.
- All requests for salaries, stipends, or payment for any individual must indicate what work is to be done to merit the payment and rate of pay for reimbursement. Graduate student stipends will be supported but not tuition payments.
- An itemized list of equipment purchases exceeding \$100 is required on the budget form. The purchased items become the property of the NPS when the project is completed unless other arrangements have been made with WNPA.
- Any supporting documentation resulting from WNPA-funded research, such as oral history tapes, photographs, collections, and specimens, becomes the property of the NPS; the PI and park superintendent are responsible for following current NPS policies and procedures involving the disposition of such documents or item.

Courtesy of NPS



Non-qualified expenses: WNPA will not provide monies for the following and may deny funding if such are included:

- Publication costs.
- Active NPS employee salaries and/or benefits.
- Administrative or overhead costs of other organizations and institutions.
- Augmenting the salary of faculty members at institutions of higher education during the period covered by the term of faculty appointment or to reimburse faculty members for consulting if they receive a regular full institutional salary covering the same period of employment as the research project. WNPA regards research as one of the normal functions of faculty members at institutions of higher education.

MULTIYEAR PROJECTS

Under special circumstances, multiyear proposals, up to three years, will be considered, based on the following conditions:

- Initial proposal states the proper project duration and projected completion date.
- Project objectives, methods, participants for each year are clearly outlined, and estimated budget (with justification) is explicitly detailed.
- Submission of adequate and timely annual reporting for the duration of the project as required by WNPA.
- A park may have **only one** ongoing, multiyear project under way at any given time.
- The funding limit for multiyear projects is \$40,000 for a two-year project and \$60,000 for a three-year project.

Note: Failure to submit adequate and timely annual reporting for the duration of the project, as required by WNPA, may result in the forfeiture of unpaid funds.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Online Grant Application

All proposals must be approved and submitted by the benefiting/host park superintendent online through the WNPA web portal. To access the online applications or to download a hard copy of the full RFP for reference, visit [WNPA Web Portal | Research Grants](#).

Deadline for Submission

To be considered for fiscal year 2025 funding, all proposals must be submitted through the WNPA web portal between **October 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024**.

WNPA Program Administrator

After reading all the provided materials, should you have questions or need assistance, contact Julie Tainter, business support manager, at 520-789-7400 or julie.tainter@wnpa.org.

Western National Parks Association
12880 North Vistoso Village Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85755
To learn more about WNPA, visit wnpa.org



RESOURCE APPENDIX

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL—1-YEAR PROJECT APPLICATION (SAMPLE)

The information supplied is limited to the space provided and submitted on this form. A proposal received in any other format will be discarded. Additional attachments are not permitted.

General Information about Your Project

Research project title			
Park(s) where research will be conducted			
Funding Project start date must be no earlier than March 15, 2025, and no later than September 30, 2025.	Total funding request for 2025	\$	
	Project start date		
	Projected project completion date		

Outline Your Project Costs

BUDGET

Priority will be given to those proposals where matching cash or in-kind contributions are included. It is very important to note any matching or in-kind funds in your budget.

PERSONNEL

Principal Investigator(s)

List first and last name	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source

Supporting Personnel

List first name, last name, and position/role	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source

Total Personnel Cost(s)	\$	\$
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OTHER EXPENSE(S)

Category	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source
Supplies and material	\$	\$
Consulting services	\$	\$
Computer services	\$	\$
Subcontract(s)	\$	\$
Equipment (itemize items over \$100 below)	\$	\$
Travel and subsistence	\$	\$

Total Other Expense(s)	\$	\$
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BUDGET TOTALS

Note: This should match the amount of the funding request.	Total Funding Requested from WNPA	\$
	Total Cash and In-Kind Contribution(s)	\$

Explain the duties that will be performed by any funded individual noted above. Also, itemize subcontract(s) cost(s), equipment costing more than \$100, and travel and subsistence. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS.**

If this proposal is a request for seed money to justify proposing a larger project to another agency, or if the proposed research will augment an already funded or proposed non-WNPA project, clearly explain the relationship. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.**

Who Is Involved with Your Project

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT(S)

Primary principal investigator (PI)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email
Additional principal investigator (PI)(s)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email
Benefiting/Host park superintendent submitting this proposal	Name Park name Address City, state, zip Phone Email
Benefiting/Host park chief of interpretation	Name Phone Email <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if chief of interpretation position is currently vacant.

Note: The online application allows for a total of four additional PIs requiring all contact information as noted.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PI(S) CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH

List only those qualifications directly related to this grant request. Include a list of other WNPA-funded research conducted by the PI(s).

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS.

List the name(s) of research participant(s) who will acquire advanced degree(s) because of working on this project, if any:

Tell Us about Your Project

ABSTRACT

Provide a summary of your project.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.

JUSTIFICATION

The submitting park should address the questions in this section.

1. Delineate where this project ranks in the submitting park's research priorities for all funding sources.
RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.
2. Are National Park Service-appropriated funds available for the project? **YES/NO**
3. If the park did not solicit this proposal, explain why the project is important to the park. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.**

- Describe how this research enriches visitors' understanding of the park's complex histories and ecological challenges. [RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.](#)
- Explain the implications for interpretation and resource management. [RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.](#)
- Outline how the research will benefit park visitors. [RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.](#)

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES, DESIGN, AND METHODOLOGY

Be concise. Include the facilities and sites to be used.

[RESPONSE LIMITED TO 1,000 WORDS.](#)

EXPLAIN HOW THE RESEARCH WILL ENHANCE THE INTERPRETIVE MISSION OF THE PARK.

[RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.](#)

DESCRIBE THE PLAN FOR AN INTERPRETATION-RELATED PRODUCT OF THE RESEARCH.

[RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.](#)

SPECIFY PRODUCT(S) AND/OR MATERIAL(S) OF THE RESEARCH (articles, theses, maps, checklists, etc.).

[RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.](#)

ENHANCING EQUITY AND INCLUSION—RESPECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

This section is optional but encouraged if applicable to the project. It offers an opportunity to describe how the research will foster connections with local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities, and demonstrate and/or cultivate awareness and respect for ecological and cultural knowledge. Highlighting how the research advances equity, inclusion, and improved access within the park will enhance the overall impact of the proposal.

- Describe how the research project will foster stronger connections between the National Park Service and local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities. If not applicable, insert N/A. [RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.](#)
- Explain how the project will demonstrate and/or cultivate cultural awareness and respect for the ecological and cultural knowledge of local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities. If not applicable, insert N/A. [RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.](#)
- Outline the ways in which the research will contribute to advancing equity, inclusion, and improved access within the park, both currently and in the future. If not applicable, insert N/A. [RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.](#)

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE BENEFITING/HOST PARK:

- Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is the grant funder (grantor).
- The benefiting/host park is the grant awardee (grantee).
- This WNPA research grant, if awarded, will be for one year.
- If this proposal is approved for funding, WNPA will issue the 2025 Research Grant Awardee Handbook, which outlines the grant agreement, as well as all terms and conditions of the research grant. This document requires electronic signatures of the benefiting/host park superintendent, chief of interpretation, and the primary principal investigator accepting the grant terms and conditions for WNPA to proceed with funding.

By submitting this proposal, I confirm my understanding of the above disclosures and verify that I and the benefiting/host park chief of interpretation have reviewed this proposal and approve its submission for consideration by WNPA.

INSERT NAME	ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE	SELECT DATE
Name: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Signature: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Submission Date

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL—MULTIYEAR PROJECT APPLICATION (SAMPLE)

The information supplied is limited to the space provided and submitted on this form. A multiyear project application received in any other format will be discarded. Additional attachments are not permitted.

General Information about Your Project

Research project title		
Park(s) where research will be conducted		
Have you previously received WNPA research grant funding to support this project? Yes, it is a continuation of an existing multiyear project. No, this is a new multiyear project. If yes, insert the assigned WNPA Grant Number _____		
Funding and project duration Project start date must be no earlier than March 15, 2025, and no later than September 30, 2025.	Total funding request for 2025	\$ _____
	Length of project	2 or 3 years
	Project start date	_____
	Projected project completion date	_____

Outline Your Project Costs

BUDGET

PERSONNEL

Principal Investigator(s)

Priority will be given to those proposals where matching cash or in-kind contributions are included. It is very important to note any matching or in-kind funds in your budget.

List first and last name	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source

Supporting Personnel

List first name, last name, and position/role	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source

Total Personnel Cost(s)	\$ _____	\$ _____
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OTHER EXPENSE(S)

Category	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source
Supplies and material	\$ _____	\$ _____
Consulting services	\$ _____	\$ _____
Computer services	\$ _____	\$ _____
Subcontract(s)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Equipment (itemize items over \$100 below)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Travel and subsistence	\$ _____	\$ _____

Total Other Expense(s)	\$ _____	\$ _____
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BUDGET TOTALS

Note: This should match the amount of the funding request.	Total Funding Requested from WNPA	\$ _____
	Total Cash and In-Kind Contribution(s)	\$ _____

Explain the duties that will be performed by any funded individual noted above. Also, itemize subcontract(s) cost(s), equipment costing more than \$100, and travel and subsistence. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS.**

If this proposal is a request for seed money to justify proposing a larger project to another agency, or if the proposed research will augment an already funded or proposed non-WNPA project, clearly explain the relationship. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.**

Who Is Involved with Your Project

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT(S)

Primary principal investigator (PI)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email
Additional principal investigator (PI)(s)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email <i>Note: The online application allows for a total of four additional PIs requiring all contact information as noted.</i>
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RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS.

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Tell Us about Your Project

ABSTRACT

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RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.

JUSTIFICATION

The submitting park should answer these questions:

1. Delineate where this project ranks in the submitting park's research priorities for all funding sources. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.**

2. Are National Park Service-appropriated funds available for the project? **YES/NO**
3. If the park did not solicit this proposal, explain why the project is important to the park. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.**
4. Describe how this research enriches visitors' understanding of the park's complex histories and ecological challenges. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.**
5. Explain the implications for interpretation and resource management. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.**
6. Outline how the research will benefit park visitors. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 75 WORDS.**

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES, DESIGN, AND METHODOLOGY

Be concise. Include the facilities and sites to be used.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 1,000 WORDS.

EXPLAIN HOW THE RESEARCH WILL ENHANCE THE INTERPRETIVE MISSION OF THE PARK.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

DESCRIBE THE PLAN FOR AN INTERPRETATION-RELATED PRODUCT OF THE RESEARCH.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

SPECIFY PRODUCT(S) AND/OR MATERIAL(S) OF THE RESEARCH (articles, theses, maps, checklists, etc.).

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

ENHANCING EQUITY AND INCLUSION—RESPECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

This section is optional but encouraged if applicable to the project. It offers an opportunity to describe how the research will foster connections with local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities, and demonstrate and/or cultivate awareness and respect for ecological and cultural knowledge. Highlighting how the research advances equity, inclusion, and improved access within the park will enhance the overall impact of the proposal.

1. Describe how the research project will foster stronger connections between the National Park Service and local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.**
2. Explain how the project will demonstrate and/or cultivate cultural awareness and respect for the ecological and cultural knowledge of local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.**
3. Outline the ways in which the research will contribute to advancing equity, inclusion, and improved access within the park, both currently and in the future. If not applicable, insert N/A. **RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.**

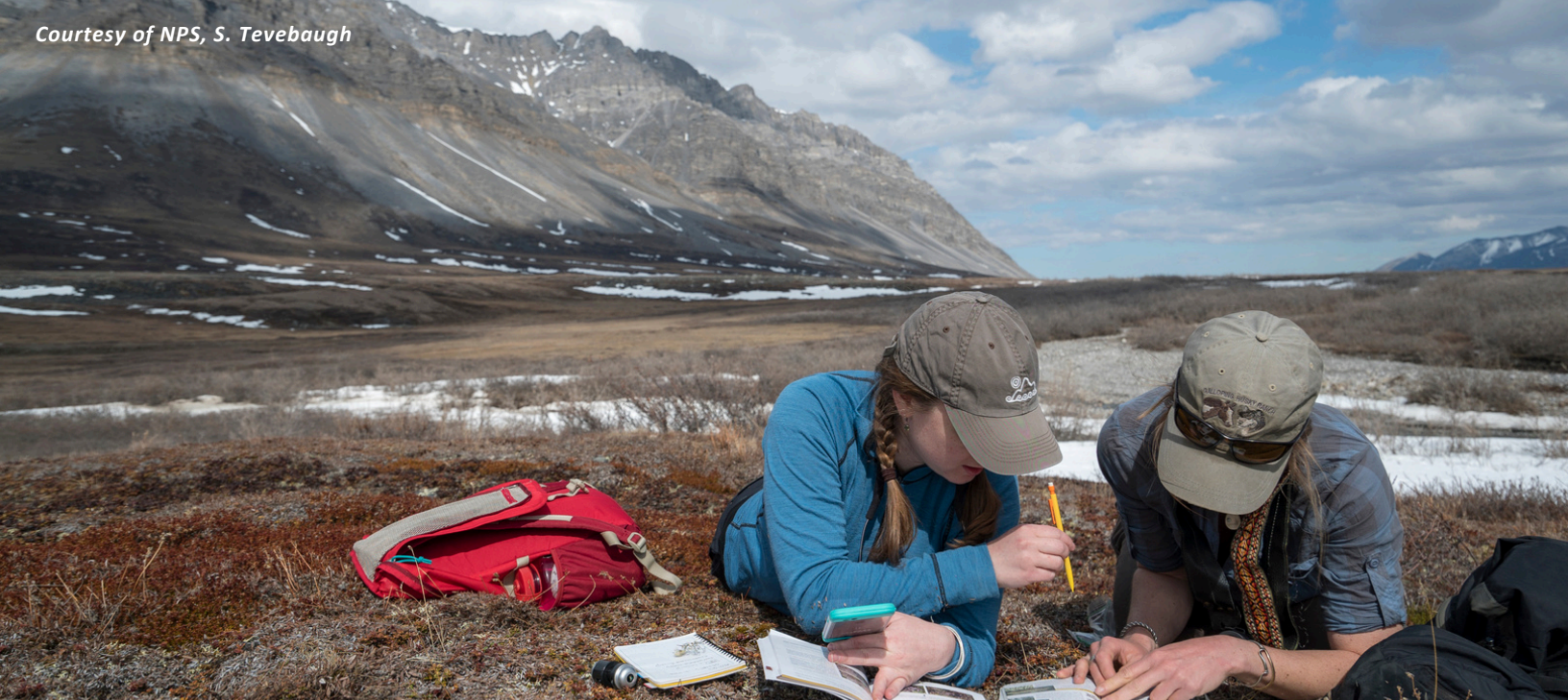
THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE BENEFITING/HOST PARK:

1. Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is the grant funder (grantor).
2. The benefiting/host park is the grant awardee (grantee).
3. Multiyear projects are limited by WNPA to three years.
4. If this proposal is approved for funding, WNPA will issue the 2025 Research Grant Awardee Handbook, which outlines the grant agreement, as well as all terms and conditions of the research grant. This document requires electronic signatures of the benefiting/host park superintendent, chief of interpretation, and the primary principal investigator accepting the grant terms and conditions for WNPA to proceed with funding.

By submitting this proposal, I confirm my understanding of the above disclosures and verify that I and the benefiting/host park chief of interpretation have reviewed this proposal and approve its submission for consideration by WNPA.

INSERT NAME	ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE	SELECT DATE
Name: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Signature: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Submission Date



GENERAL TIPS FOR COMPLETING YOUR PROPOSAL

- **Interpretation Focus:** WNPA prioritizes the effective interpretation of research findings. Proposals that include a plan for accessible, inclusive, and engaging interpretation-related products, which impact visitor experiences directly, are looked upon favorably. Consider including products that authentically represent diverse perspectives or reflect civic engagement within the parks.
- **Distinctive Factors:** Emphasize specifics that differentiate the proposal, such as citizen science initiatives, public involvement, innovative tools (e.g., interactive brochures or visitor center videos), bilingual materials, research on understudied topics, media outreach, or critical research opportunities.
- **Funding Relationships:** If requesting seed money to justify proposing a larger project or augmenting an existing project funded by another source, clearly explain the relationship and how the WNPA grant will contribute to the overall project.
- **Matching Contributions:** Proposals with matching cash or in-kind contributions will be given priority. It is important to clearly note any such contributions in the budget.

Resource Materials

The following documents may assist in crafting your proposal

- Past Funded Research Projects: Searchable database of WNPA-funded research final reports.
- Research Proposal Evaluation Form (Sample), see page 13: Provides an example of the general review approach used by the WNPA Research Committee.
- Research Proposal Examples: Outstanding past proposals reviewed favorably by the WNPA Research Committee.
- Sharing Your Research with WNPA: Supporting WNPA's mission and goals while promoting your research.
- Submitting a Compelling Research Project: Examples of compelling research projects supported by WNPA's research grant program.
- Telling Your Research Story: Examples and strategies for effectively sharing your research project.



POINTERS FOR USING THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS

SAVE AND FORWARD THE FORM TO SOMEONE FOR REVIEW AND/OR SIGNATURE

1. Save the Form
 - a. After filling out the form, click the “Save” button.
 - b. You will receive an email with a link to the saved form.
2. Open the Email
 - a. Go to your email inbox and find the message from JotForm with the subject “Continue Filling Out this Form.”
3. Forward the Form
 - a. Open the email and click the “Forward” button in your email client.
 - b. Enter the email address of the person who needs to review and/or sign the form.
 - c. Include a message letting them know they can click the link in the email to access and complete their portion of the form.
4. Sign and Submit
 - a. The recipient can click the link, review the form, sign, and submit it.

PRINT THE FORM

1. Locate the Print Button
 - a. Scroll to the bottom of the form where you’ll find the “Print” button.
2. Click the Print Button
 - a. Click on the “Print” button to open your device’s print dialog.
3. Choose Print Options
 - a. Select your printer to print a physical copy, or choose “Save as PDF” if you want to save it as a digital file.
4. Print or Save
 - a. Complete the printing process if you are printing a hard copy, or save the file as a PDF to your computer.

SAVE YOUR PROGRESS WHILE COMPLETING THE FORM

1. At the End of Each Page
 - a. After filling out each page of the form, click the “Save” button at the bottom before moving on to the next page.
2. Resume Later
 - a. When you click “Save”, you’ll receive an email with a link to continue where you left off. You can use this link to come back to the form at any time.
3. Continue Filing Out the Form
 - a. When you’re ready to return, click the link in the email to pick-up right where you left off, with all your previous responses saved.

The Research Committee will use this form to evaluate your application.



WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

Learn More About

Western
National Parks
Association

OUR MISSION

In partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) since 1938, Western National Parks Association (WNPA) advances education, interpretation, research, and community engagement to ensure national parks are increasingly valued by all.

OUR COMMITMENT

National parks tell the story of America, and WNPA helps share that story. By uncovering the diversity of the landscapes' natural beauty, culture, and heritage, WNPA remains committed to discovery—new knowledge, new understanding, and new ways to engage with humanity.

OUR ROLE

As a nonprofit education partner of the NPS, WNPA supports more than 70 parks across the West, developing products, services, and programs that enrich the visitor experience, understanding, and appreciation of national parks.

The most visible expression of this mission is the operation of park stores in national park visitor centers, with many of the offerings developed and published by WNPA. Each store is unique, presenting products that give guests a tangible and enduring connection to the park's unique themes and diverse purposes—its majestic scenery, biodiversity, fascinating natural and cultural history, and stories of struggle, triumph, and justice. Visitors find a variety of educational materials, from trail and field guides to in-depth academic studies, along with authentic arts and crafts, collectible park logo items, and even food products that connect with the park's diverse cultures, communities, and ecosystems. Young guests can discover children's books, educational toys, and popular Junior Ranger merchandise. Award-winning books and products extend visitors' experiences far beyond their time in the park.



Visitors at The National Parks Store enjoy the White Sands National Park book launch with author Susan Lamb.

The National Parks Store in Tucson, Arizona, offers a variety of educational programs. Past topics include Native basketry, flute making, pottery techniques, and Navajo rug weaving, with attendance exceeding five thousand people annually. The premiere community event of the year is the sponsorship of The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books. The Pavilion provides the opportunity for 20 national parks from the western United States to connect with more than 140,000 festival attendees, bringing national parks to the people and the diverse communities they serve.



Two children interacting with a park ranger at The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books in Tucson, Arizona.

Along with educational programming, WNPA provides direct financial aid to the national parks, supporting cultural, historical, and educational activities developed by park rangers. These activities enhance visitor experiences, create opportunities to inclusively connect with youth, and engage diverse local communities. Thousands of events have been funded, including an international youth Indigenous cultural exchange, living history demonstrations and encampments, several cultural festivals, Junior Ranger camps, art exhibitions, and archaeological and geographical surveys.

Historically, WNPA has funded a broad range of research projects, all of which help advance the management, preservation, and interpretation of our national parks. Supporting research is more than just a way to amplify the efforts of National Park Service partners; it is a means to help reveal and share the important stories parks hold to advance equity, diversity, inclusivity, and justice for all park visitors and their communities.

To learn more about Western National Parks Association, visit www.wnpa.org.

WNPA Partner Parks

Western
National Parks
Association

Arizona

Canyon de Chelly National Monument
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
Chiricahua National Monument
Coronado National Memorial
Fort Bowie National Historic Site
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Montezuma Castle National Monument
Navajo National Monument
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Saguaro National Park
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument
The National Parks Store
Tonto National Monument
Tumacácori National Historical Park
Tuzigoot National Monument
Walnut Canyon National Monument
Wupatki National Monument

California

Channel Islands National Park
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
John Muir National Historic Site
Mojave National Preserve
Pinnacles National Park
Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Colorado

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Curecanti National Recreation Area
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

Kansas

Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park
Fort Larned National Historic Site
Fort Scott National Historic Site
Nicodemus National Historic Site

Montana & Wyoming

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

Nevada

Great Basin National Park
Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument



New Mexico

Aztec Ruins National Monument
Bandelier National Monument
Capulin Volcano National Monument
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Chaco Culture National Historical Park
El Malpais National Monument
El Morro National Monument
Fort Union National Monument
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
Pecos National Historical Park
Petroglyph National Monument
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
White Sands National Park

Oklahoma

Chickasaw National Recreation Area
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

Texas

Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Big Thicket National Preserve
Chamizal National Memorial
Fort Davis National Historic Site
Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Lake Meredith
National Recreation Area
Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park
Padre Island National Seashore
Palo Alto Battlefield National
Historical Park
San Antonio Missions National
Historical Park

Utah

Golden Spike National Historical Park
Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Trails

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail
Santa Fe National Historic Trail
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

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