

SWRS Outstanding Graduate Research Award Announcement

Deadline April 15

The Southwestern Research Station Graduate Research Award was endowed by an anonymous donor to support field research by graduate students at the American Museum of Natural History's Southwestern Research Station in Portal, Arizona.

The purpose of this competitive award is to make extensive station-based fieldwork possible for graduate students (PhD or Masters), recognizing that such fieldwork provides a uniquely immersive opportunity to explore their study system and develop a sense of place. The recipient receives an award of up to US \$5000 to be applied towards covering station fees, research equipment and supplies, and travel expenses. Supported fieldwork must be in the Chiricahuas or neighboring areas. Regional projects including those with components at neighboring field stations within Arizona will be considered, but supported research must be based in part at SWRS.

Graduate students in any stage of their thesis work are eligible, as long as they have not yet completed their data collection. Previous award recipients may reapply. A call for proposals is issued in early spring (January 10). Deadline is April 15.

The SWRS Awards Committee will select qualifying graduate students to whom they would distribute annual endowment returns. Students would use the money to cover travel, room and board, and research equipment and supplies during their fieldwork.

Successful applicants will:

- Explain the proposed project, driving questions, and/or hypothesis being tested
- Explain the value of their project and its potential benefit for expanding basic knowledge (or toward applied goals)
- Propose to use the award to support more extensive fieldwork in their thesis than would otherwise be possible
- Explain the unique value such fieldwork will add to their thesis research
- Provide 2 support letters, one from their graduate advisor
- Demonstrate an excellent publication, presentation, teaching, and award record (relative to the amount of time they have been in graduate school.)

Format of the application: up to 5 pages including citations. A budget should be included. Figures are encouraged. The application should be written by the student for an audience of scientific peers who may not be familiar with your particular system. Additionally, a CV and two support letters should be included.

Award obligations:

- 1) Awardees will be required to give a presentation on their project to the local community and field station residents during the SWRS summer seminar.
- 2) Each awardee must submit a short article describing their project and findings, written for a lay audience, for inclusion in the SWRS yearly newsletter and for the anonymous donor of the award. Photos are encouraged.
- 3) Awardees must provide SWRS with a copy of publications resulting from the supported research.
- 4) data archiving is encouraged.
- 5) Publications should acknowledge funding from the SWRS award.