



**David Redden Conservation Science Fund
Small Grants
for
Scientific Research at Black Rock Forest**

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Guidelines for 2019

**Application Deadline
February 8, 2019, 5:00 PM EST**

**Announcement of Awards
March 1, 2019**

**Funded Project Start Date
March 15, 2019**

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Member Institutions

American Museum of Natural History
Avenues: The World School
Barnard College
The Browning School
The Calhoun School
Central Park Conservancy
City University of New York
Columbia University
Cornwall Central School District
The Dalton School
Metropolitan Montessori School
New York City Department of
Parks and Recreation
NY-NJ Trail Conference
New York University
Newburgh Enlarged City Sch. District
The School at Columbia University
The Spence School
The Storm King School
Teachers College
Trevor Day School
Urban Assembly School for
Applied Math and Science

Past Chairs

William T. Golden (1989-2007)
Founding Chair

Sibyl R. Golden (2007-2017)

INFORMATION CONTACT:

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www.blackrockforest.org**

BLACK ROCK FOREST DAVID REDDEN CONSERVATION SCIENCE GRANTS AWARD PROGRAM

BACKGROUND AND ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to promote research projects at the Black Rock Forest (BRF), funded by the David Redden Conservation Science Fund. Preference will be given to studies focused on conservation science or with applications to conservation. Research can be focused at any biological scale - genes, organisms, populations, communities, or ecosystems. Projects must involve research related to the biota and/or physical environment of Black Rock Forest and must be completed, at least in part, at Black Rock Forest. Proposals must be prepared by a Principal Investigator or Project Coordinator (hereafter termed the PI) who must be a faculty member (or similar position, including curator or research scientist), post-doctoral researcher, or graduate student at a research institution. Graduate student applicants should have their faculty advisor submit a letter of support. Undergraduate and high school students may apply if their proposal is submitted in collaboration with a faculty member who will supervise the project. Supervisors of undergraduate and high school students should include a letter of support detailing the role of the mentor in supervising the research. The PI, not the institution, submits the proposal and the award will be made to the PI. The expected maximum request is \$6000; however, PIs may request larger grants if circumstances merit and prior permission is given by the Executive Director. Partnerships between institutions are especially encouraged and may merit larger requests. The grant period is one year, but project renewals can be submitted for up to two additional years. A prior award does not guarantee renewal.

Award funds may be used for stipends or salary (but not benefits) to support students, research assistants, post-doctoral associates, and for specialized consultants. Support in the form of summer salary, wages or stipends for faculty or other senior researchers is not allowed. Travel expenses to and from Black Rock Forest are allowed. Faculty and students should arrange their own transportation to and within the Forest. Food expenses are not covered but lodging costs at Black Rock Forest facilities may be included (call 845-534-4517 or check [website](#) for availability). Indirect costs or other forms of institutional overhead are not supported. Unless otherwise stipulated in the award letter, equipment purchased will remain at or be returned to Black Rock Forest at the end of the grant period.

Applications for the David Redden Conservation Science Fund Grants program must be received via email to kterlizzi@blackrockforest.org by 5:00 PM EST on February 8, 2019. Consultation with the Executive Director (Bill Schuster) or Research Manager (Katie Terlizzi) is suggested prior to proposal preparation to help define appropriate projects, methods, and budgets. Grant administration for successful proposals will be governed by conditions of a grant letter sent to successful applicants.

EVALUATION

Each proposal will be judged on the extent to which it reflects a well conceived design, clearly stated goals and a reasonable promise of successful completion. Priority will be given to projects that aim to answer questions with clear conservation goals or implications. Research proposals will be judged as to (1) evidence of scholarly promise/productivity; (2) significance of the project in relation to its contribution to the field; and (3) evidence of the importance of Black Rock Forest in answering the research questions. Research awards will generally support independent, original projects that will lead to peer-reviewed publication and potential for additional funding from other sources.

The history of other funding received by the applicant may be taken into consideration. The David Redden Conservation Science Fund Grants Award Committee, which consists of

representatives from the Forest staff, Board and Consortium partners, will make award decisions. Final decisions will be announced by written notification in March 2019.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Contact with Black Rock Forest Consortium staff prior to proposal preparation may help determine if the proposed project is appropriate. Send proposals as a single digital document to Research Manager, Katie Terlizzi, at kterlizzi@blackrockforest.org. A reply email will be returned to the PI indicating receipt of the application. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Proposals should contain:

1. **Cover Sheet** Use the form provided on the Black Rock Forest [website](#). Provide a short descriptive title (< 200 characters). On the cover sheet, check all boxes that apply. If a research project involves human subjects you will be required to conform to guidelines established by the NIH and NSF regarding consent forms and the rights, privacy, and welfare of your subjects. If your project involves vertebrate animals you are required to adhere to your institution's animal welfare guidelines as set forth by NIH and NSF. Research involving endangered species must conform to state and federal regulations. Copies of institutional or government approval (e.g. IAUCUC approval, collecting permits, etc.) must be given to Black Rock Forest before the research may commence.
2. **Project Description** The project description is limited to a maximum of six single-spaced pages (exclusive of Literature Cited) with one inch margins and 12 point, standard font. The **Introduction** should state the problem, the questions, or the hypotheses to be tested. Specific objectives for the period of support should be listed. Background material should be provided that puts the project in perspective and includes a brief review of relevant literature. The **Research Design** section should present descriptions of proposed research including the procedures to be used. Special emphasis should be placed on work to be conducted within Black Rock Forest, including lab space requirements and their duration. Schematics and or figures for sampling or surveying plots, transects, etc. are encouraged when appropriate. Provide an **approximate schedule** for the stages of the project and plans for removal of equipment and materials from the Forest at the end of the project. **Literature Cited** should be the last section of the project description.
3. **Proposed Budget** A maximum of \$6000 may be requested, except with prior approval for higher amounts by the Executive Director. Budget categories to be included are: personnel, equipment and supplies, travel, lodging, and other expenses (e.g. lab processing fees). Please contact the Executive Director with any questions about allowable expenses.
4. **Budget Justification** Specify the reasons for the funds requested. Requests for equipment costing more than \$1500 require manufacturer, model number, and web link with the need for the particular model clearly explained. Briefly describe expendable supplies requested. Requests for equipment devoted to field or lab needs are encouraged; unless well justified, requests for computers or computer upgrades are not encouraged. Unless otherwise stipulated in the award letter, equipment purchased will become the property of Black Rock Forest at the end of the grant period.
5. **Other Funding** A list of current awards relevant to the proposed research controlled by the PI, including source, amount and period of support. If there are no current awards, state "None".
6. **Prior Black Rock Forest Awards** including a list of final reports from earlier awards, any publications resulting from these awards, and the professional outcomes of student participants.

7. **Curriculum Vitae** of PI and of each student investigator participating in the project, limited to two pages single-spaced per person.
8. **Letter(s) of Support** Applications from graduate students should include a letter of support from the student's advisor endorsing the proposed research and briefly describing the role the advisor and home institution will provide in supporting that research (e.g., use of laboratory facilities or scientific equipment, expected involvement of the advisor or other collaborators in the proposed research). Applications from undergraduate and high school students should include a letter of support from the advisor or mentor with details of how that mentor will supervise that project. Any application from an undergraduate or high school student without a detailed mentoring plan will not be considered. Questions about the expectations for mentors of undergraduate or high school research can be directed to the Executive Director in advance of submission. Letters are not required when the PI is a postdoctoral scholar, faculty member, or other more senior professional rank.

REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTS

All projects at Black Rock Forest require prior written approval of the Research Manager and approval of a grant will satisfy this requirement. All PIs must file a written plan documenting procedures, equipment and materials, discussion of access and safety issues prior to initiation of research if these issues are not sufficiently addressed in the grant application. PIs must submit data, with metadata in appropriate format, within two years of collection. **All equipment and materials must be removed and/or properly disposed of at the end of the study.** Substantive changes to either the project design or budget must be approved by the Executive Director in advance.

At the end of the grant period the PI must submit a final report within 60 days. The report should briefly present and discuss the results and account for how the funds were spent. A copy of any publication(s) resulting from the project, including in-house, peer-reviewed, non-peer-reviewed, or popular press, should be submitted as they arise. Publications should contain an acknowledgement of support from the Black Rock Forest David Redden Conservation Science Fund.