



## 2022 NWF EcoLeader Graduate Student Fellowship Request for Applications

**Topic:** Environmental Action Education Research Fellow

**Location:** Any U.S. location

### **Background:**

The National Wildlife Federation is operationalizing principles of equity and environmental justice within our organization and across our conservation and education programs. Our environmental justice work intentionally prioritizes, amplifies, and includes the policy solutions, views, and voices of Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and lower wealth communities that have been impacted by discriminatory practices. We invest the time and cultural respect required to build authentic relationships and connect our policy and advocacy efforts to those communities challenged most immediately and seriously by climate change.

Earth Tomorrow is National Wildlife Federation's longest standing environmental justice education program for high school students interested in developing leadership skills and deepening their understanding of environmental justice related issues and solutions. Consistent with our national environmental justice efforts, Earth Tomorrow intentionally prioritizes Black, Indigenous and Youth of Color in our program offerings. Across the Federation, several Earth Tomorrow modeled programs are working to develop new environmental justice education tools to advance students' understanding of what environmental justice is and how to take action.

To learn more about NWF's environmental justice work: <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Environmental-Justice>.

To learn more about Earth Tomorrow: <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Education-Programs/Earth-Tomorrow>

### **Goal(s) of Fellowship:**

In an effort to assist NWF's Earth Tomorrow Program in developing new environmental education tools and promoting "education to action" opportunities, the Environmental Action Research Fellow will inventory the current environmental justice resources NWF has for youth, research new education tools for youth and share recommendations for which tools should be incorporated in an "education to action" toolkit. Recommendations should be based on how effective the resources are in sparking a desire to take action. The specific goals and deliverables of the Fellowship will be determined based on the interests and strengths of the Fellows, as expressed in their fellowship applications. Fellowship applications should address one or more of the following goals:

- Research NWF's national-scale environmental justice education resources to determine what tools can be used for youth engagement. *This would include research and organization.*

- Research new environmental justice education resources and activities geared towards youth and identify untapped or underused methodologies to reach students from diverse background. *This would include online research and interviews.*
- Research resources that have proven to be effective in promoting education to action for youth interested in environmental justice. *This would include writing and surveying.*
- Recommend activities and events for students to take action corresponding to the recommended educational tools. *This would include writing and surveying.*

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Register and maintain an active personal profile and presence on NWF EcoLeaders community, and promote to personal network during the course of the Fellowship.
- Create project plan for a 4-6 month Fellowship term based on agreed upon Fellowship goal.
- Coordinate with 1-2 other Fellows to share ideas, progress, and cohesion.
- Assist the NWF Youth Leadership Engagement team with additional duties as assigned.
- Develop a summary report of findings and programmatic recommendations

### **Fellowship Program Requirements:**

- Participate in a Fellowship kick-off call - date TBD.
- Participate in periodic phone check-ins with NWF staff about project status and responsibilities.
- Submit biweekly project updates throughout the Fellowship detailing the progress you have made and plans for the duration of your Fellowship.

### **Competencies:**

- Motivated by values of equity and responsibility to those most marginalized
- Dedicated to deepening understanding of cultural and systemic racism and the intersectionality of multiple forms of social inequality
- Demonstrates awareness of positional power and privilege (both personally and professionally) and its attendant impacts
- Consistently brings a high level of empathy and social skills to work and interpersonal interactions
- Demonstrates awareness of the attributes associated with a white dominant culture and takes actions to dismantle hierarchies of oppression within that culture
- Must be a strategic thinker, self-starter, well organized, strong communicator, and relationship builder.
- An entrepreneurial spirit, initiative and energy is critical to success.
- Must have a passion for and commitment to NWF's mission.

### **Perks and Privileges:**

- \$6,000 stipend
- Professional development resources, assistance, and networking
- Possibility of academic credit for successful completion of the project, as an independent study or integration of fellowship project into course curricula

**Eligibility:** Graduate students from any college or university within the U.S. are eligible to apply. Applications are invited from students in all disciplines and are not limited to environmental studies majors. Current and former employees of National Wildlife Federation and former NWF Campus Ecology

Fellows are ineligible to apply. Former NWF interns are eligible to apply following one year from their final work date. The name on the application must be limited to **one individual** and the Fellowship reporting, training, or other requirements cannot be transferred to or shared with another student. Additional involvement should be noted in the proposal. The applicant must be enrolled in school through the duration of the 4-month grant period.

### **Grant Terms:**

The Fellowship is for a term of 4-6 months, depending on Fellow's schedule. The fellow will begin in May of 2022, with the specific date TBD. Fellows spend various amounts of time on their projects each week. The average amount of time spent is 10 hours weekly or 40 hours monthly. The time invested by each student is typically considerable, but it is also flexible to account for schoolwork and other commitments and the working style of each Fellow. Fellows will receive a stipend for their work. Any Fellowship-related expenses accrued during the Fellowship period should be covered by the stipend.

Payments are dispersed in two installments: First installment of grant awards are made within two weeks of awarding the fellowship and finalizing fellowship agreement. The second installment will be made by August 31, 2022. Grant funds may be distributed to the student directly (with submission of a W-9) or to an Administrative Office on campus (e.g. Research, Grants and Contracts Office, Financial Aid Office, Campus Sustainability Office) to the attention of the appropriate administrator. Grant funds may be taxable; consult your tax advisor for U.S. Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements.

### **How to Apply:**

1. Carefully review the information provided in this document.
2. Complete and submit the application form for the 2022 NWF EcoLeader Graduate Student Fellowship, [HERE](#).
3. Submit an electronic letter of recommendation from your identified Advisor via PDF attachment to [Fellows@nwf.org](mailto:Fellows@nwf.org). Please make sure your name is in the subject line of the email.

*All applicants must identify and work with an Advisor for the duration of the grant period. An advisor is a member of the staff, faculty, or administration on your campus who is willing to serve in an advisory capacity for the duration of the grant period. The advisor should be from the department on campus this is most closely related to your fellowship and can validate that the project is one that is supported by the department and/or campus.*

*Please secure an electronic copy of a letter of recommendation from the Advisor explaining the qualifications of the applicant and his or her role in advising the student and submit the letter as a PDF attachment via email to [Fellows@nwf.org](mailto:Fellows@nwf.org)*

**The deadline to submit applications is May 15, 2022 by midnight.**

Applications are reviewed by a committee to determine which meet the selection criteria. All applicants will be notified of their status within one month of their application deadline.

### **Applications will be evaluated based on the following:**

- Demonstrated interest in and experience working within or with diverse constituencies

- Engagement with students, faculty, community organizations, and businesses
- Interest in conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Strong communication skills of applicant to build diverse constituency
- Initiative to overcome barriers and seek alternative avenues when necessary
- Proactive research and outreach to ensure project will successfully achieve the above
- Commitment to advancing environmental initiatives on academic, personal, and professional levels
- Desire to remain an active member in NWF after the conclusion of the Fellowship