



NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY

Program Descriptions and Eligibility

Applicants of any nationality or citizenship are eligible to apply for the Student Grant Program (SGP) if they meet the specific program guidelines, but must be affiliated with a university or government agency in South and Central America.

Student Grant Program

The Student Grant Program (SGP) provides grants of US \$500 to M.S. and Ph.D. students to cover research expenses associated with travel to field sites, food and housing at field sites, and consumable equipment costing less than US \$25. Applicants must complete the general and program specific fields in Section I (cover sheet), and complete in full Sections II – VI of the application provided below. Applications are reviewed by a panel of researchers affiliated with the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy, and selected to the program based on the feasibility and merit of the proposed project and how closely the project meets the mission of the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy. Awards are distributed in one allotment of US \$500. Successful applicants are required to provide the NGC with a year-end report, summarizing project results and describing how funds were used. Following submission of the year-end report, students can apply for additional funding.

Application Deadlines, Submissions, and Additional Information

Applications for the Student Grant Program (SGP) are accepted on the first of August, December, and April, and may be submitted electronically to:

info@conservegrassland.org

or mailed to:

The Neotropical Grassland Conservancy
6274 Heathcliff Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608-0909

Requests for clarification and/or additional information should be directed to:

info@conservegrassland.org



NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND
CONSERVANCY

Student Grant Program Application

(All information will be kept confidential.)

Section I – Cover Sheet

Applicant's Full Name: _____
Last First

Advisor's Full Name: _____
Last First

Has your advisor applied to our Research Equipment Program (REP)? Yes: _____ No: _____

Advisor's Signature: _____

Project Title: _____

Project Location: _____

Project Duration: _____

University Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone Number: _____ **Fax Number:** _____

Applicant's Citizenship: _____

Applicant's Email: _____

Please mail this Cover Sheet along with completed Sections II – VI to:

NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY

6274 Heathcliff Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608-0909

Section II – Personal Statement (1,500 Words or Less)

Write on a separate sheet of paper. Describe in 1500 words or less events or people that were influential in your decision to pursue an advanced degree, concern about your study organism or system, and career goals..

Section III – Project Description (3 Pages Maximum, Including Literature Cited)

Write on a separate sheet of paper. Description should include five sections: 1) Background- include sufficient information so that importance and current state of knowledge can be evaluated, 2)Objectives, 3) Methods/Experimental Design – provide sufficient detail such that we can determine how the experiment and sampling will address the stated objectives, 3)Expected Results, 4) Significance – what are the broader implications of this project and your results to issues of grassland conservation, and 5) literature cited.

Section IV – Project Budget (1 Page Maximum)

Write on a separate sheet of paper. Description?

Section V – Photograph (Optional)

If possible, please include a photograph(s) of applicant and study organism or system. Photographs are a very powerful tool for aiding the NGC in securing funds.

Section VI – Waiver

I, the undersigned, authorize the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy to use any material submitted as part of the Student Grant and Research Equipment Programs application to aid them in securing donations. By signing below, I also declare that the information provided is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

Applicant's Signature

Date



NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY

Who We Are

The Neotropical Grassland Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting the conservation of savannas, gallery forests, wetlands, and associated ecosystems in Central and South America.

What We Do

We promote conservation through our programs and grants: 1) the Research Equipment Program (REP), which supports local scientific infrastructure; 2) the Student Grant Program (SGP), which supports graduate students enrolled in Latin American institutions, pursuing careers in grassland conservation; and 3) Memorial Research Grants, which directly fund conservation research.

Research Equipment Program

The Research Equipment Program (REP) provides basic science equipment to scientists and students in the American tropics. Conservation research efforts and opportunities are often truncated by a lack of basic equipment, such as microscopes, GPS units, cameras, binoculars, and science textbooks. Surprisingly, a used pair of binoculars can make the difference between a student embarking on a Master's project in conservation or switching over to an agricultural focus with better funding.

Student Grant Program

The Student Grant Program (SGP) was designed in response to feedback from Venezuelan university professors. Graduate student research projects are often Grant hindered by lack of funds for basic needs such as transportation, lodging, meals and consumable field supplies. As little as \$500 can launch a life-long career in conservation.

Memorial Research Grants

Memorial Research Grants (MRG) directly promote and fund conservation research. Grants are one-year, unrestricted funds that can be used for direct or indirect costs, including salary. Specific grants may be restricted to certain taxa or new research initiatives. See individual grants for details.

Why It Matters

The dual threat of agriculture and cattle ranching puts the health of the relatively ignored savanna and wetland ecosystems at risk. If these ecosystems are to be preserved then in-country scientists, landowners, and students will make the difference between habitat preservation and destruction.

How It Works

Researchers in our growing network outline their projects, request specific equipment or student grants, and describe its impact. Equipment stays with the research group to encourage further studies and professional development. At the end of the year, we receive an update on each project. The impact of these programs, particularly for young professionals, is immense.

How We Measure Success

We measure success by the number of researchers impacted and projects assisted. For major equipment donations, success is measured by its continued use for multiple projects and students. We use donated funds to expand our programs, to purchase equipment, and to support conservation students in Latin America. Our dedicated interns and board members volunteer their work and donate all administrative costs, so every dollar you give goes directly toward conservation.