

Robert E. Reynolds Desert Symposium Student Research Award

What is the Purpose of the Award?

Robert E. (Bob) Reynolds mentored dozens of young scientists on research projects in the Mojave Desert and nearby areas. In honor of this mentoring and his long service in holding the annual Desert Symposium, Desert Symposium Inc. has instituted a student research award in his name. Its purpose is to promote student research.

The award will be made annually to a student proposing research in and near the deserts of California, as funds permit and a qualified project is identified.

How do I apply?

A short application that includes a research proposal is required to be submitted by March 1, 2026. An associated recommendation from a faculty mentor, on institutional letterhead, must be received by the same deadline. Proposals will be evaluated and a top candidate identified by late March. The selected candidate will be encouraged to present a poster or talk about the proposal at the following Desert Symposium, at which time the general announcement of the winner will be made. Registration for the symposium will be waived for the winner.

What are the Qualifications?

The award will be made to a matriculated student, either at undergraduate or graduate level.

What are the Award criteria?

The award will be made to the most qualified applicant, as judged by a three-member panel of faculty and experts familiar with southern California deserts. The main criterion is the quality of the proposed research. Other factors include ability to complete the research in the timeframe of the award, information in the supporting letter from the faculty mentor including academic history, and may include previously demonstrated ability to conduct this kind of research.

How much Funding can I apply for?

The award will be for a maximum of \$2,000.00. It is administered from donated funds by Desert Symposium Inc. Potential tax liability will be the responsibility of the awardee. The awardee will submit a budget after notification of winning the competition. Desert Symposium Inc. may request certain items to be modified. The specific amount to be awarded will be agreed upon before the award becomes final.

The Awardee will record expenditures to demonstrate usage of the Award. It is expected that the Award will be provided in two increments, the second of which will be contingent on receiving an expenditure report and short statement of progress.

What are the Requirements of the Awardee?

The Awardee must give a presentation (either a talk or a poster) at the Desert Symposium on the subject of the research after research is completed. Progress reports at the annual meetings are encouraged as well. An expectation, but not a requirement, is that the Awardee will write a short paper for publication in the Symposium Proceedings. Any publication from the research must identify Desert Symposium Inc. for partial funding and a copy of the publication must be provided to the Secretary of Desert Symposium Inc.