**Marian Huff Tremblay Science Scholarship 2024**

Applications Due:January 15th, 2024

Awards will be announced no later than March 1st, 2024.

**Purpose**

* To support graduate students with their field research in Joshua Tree National Park.
* To support high priority research needs that inform park management of socio-cultural, natural, and wilderness resources.

**Outcomes**

Awardees are expected to provide summary updates twice per year to the Grant Coordinator. Before final reimbursement, awardee is expected to produce a scientific article to be printed in our JT Science annual publication and on the NPS website. In addition, awardee is expected to publicly present their findings in a suitable forum (such as the Desert Institute Lecture Series). When research is complete, awardee will provide the park with copies of any final publications, thesis work, and/or any pertinent information that applies to the research conducted in the park. Awardees have two years from time of award to complete their fieldwork and meet all award requirements.

**Framework**

* Applicants must be enrolled as graduate students in accredited universities.
* Research categories include: botany, historic structures, wildlife studies, desert ecology, museum studies, oral history, physical and earth sciences, archaeology, cultural landscape studies, park and community history, information management for resources, paleontology, ethnography, social science, and wilderness.
* Applications will be ranked based on three Criteria (see application).
* Applicants have 24 months from award date to spend grant money.
* Awards can be up to $5,000 per proposal\*
* Applicants can apply once for additional funding after first grant has been completed.

**Grant Funding and Support**

The program is intended to assist students with field study expenses and data analysis, including travel, field supplies, and research equipment. Award amounts are up to $5,000\*. Allowable categories: field and lab supplies, minor equipment, actual cost of food and travel to/from the Park, computer support, access costs to special analytical equipment, etc. Non-allowable categories include Park entrance fees, salaries/stipends, school fees/tuition, publication costs, books for courses, and purchase of computer equipment. Awardees can have free lodging at the Park’s field station ([Dr. Luckie Study Center](https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/nature/dr-luckie-study-center.htm)) or access to campgrounds (availability is not guaranteed, so book early). Free Park entrance will be granted with an approved Research Permit. Please review the guidelines for obtaining a [scientific research permit](https://irma.nps.gov/RPRS/Park/JOTR) before applying and review the Selection Criteria listed below.

\*Exceptions to the $5,000 maximum can be considered; examples might include projects that are exceptionally aligned with park goals or situations where partial funding makes the project unattainable. Please contact the Grant Coordinator (JTresearchgrant@joshuatree.org) to discuss this possibility.

**Ranking Criteria**

Proposals will be rank scored based on the total points accrued from the Selection Committee. Each committee member will score the proposals based on the following three criteria:

**Criterion 1: Scientific Merit, Problem Definition, Feasibility, and Quality of Presentation (10 Points):**

Does the applicant express the research question in a way that demonstrates an understanding of the topic as well as the proposed methods or techniques? To what extent will this proposal make progress towards answering the research question? Is the problem well defined and adequate background information provided? Is the proposed timeframe and budget adequate for completing the scope of work? Are the hypotheses clearly stated and are the proposed methods and experimental design appropriate for use in answering the research question?

**Criterion 2: Application to preserving Natural, Cultural, and Social Resources (5 Points):**

In what way can the results or information provided by this research be used to protect fundamental desert resources? Will this research fill an informational void? Does this research further our understanding of priority resources, including, but not limited to: Native Fauna and Flora, Geological, Paleontological, Historical, Air, and Water Resources? How will the expected results of this research inform park managers about specific resource conditions? Can the proposed research be conducted with minimal environmental compliance and/or mitigation requirements?

**Criterion 3: Application to Resource Management and Outreach (7 Points):**

How can the results or methods be used by the park to make better management decisions? Is there potential for this research to be transferable to another National Park Service unit or protected area in the Desert Southwest? In what way can the National Park Service use this information to increase public awareness and understanding of natural and/or cultural resources?