

# University of Florida Natural Area Teaching Laboratory 2014 NATL Minigrant Program

In November 2013, UF's Natural Area Advisory Committee (NAAC) will award up to two minigrants of \$500 each to fund 2014 projects that enhance the information infrastructure of the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory (NATL). We seek projects that will produce useful new information about NATL or will improve access to what is already known.

## Who is eligible?

UF students or groups of students with a designated student leader.

## Requirements

A student or group must have a sponsor who is a UF faculty member. The student or group, and sponsor, must prepare an application and submit an electronic version by email and a signed paper copy by campus mail. The application deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

## Examples of suitable projects

The projects listed below are provided to illustrate the type and scope of projects that NAAC wishes to encourage, however we are open to any project that enhances the usefulness of NATL for teaching or research.

- Create a virtual, interactive walk-through tour of the nature trails to make use of NATL's new WiFi capabilities.
- Look at seasonal cycles in NATL and put together a visual presentation (video or sign).
- Update the list of vascular plants that occur in the SEEP.
- Improve the look and links of the Biota section of the [NATL website](#).
- Help reconstruct the history of NATL's trees by determining age via coring live trees or counting rings of dead trees in sections of the lower trunk. Tools can be provided.
- Help develop activities that will encourage students to volunteer in NATL.
- Generate material that will encourage bird watching in NATL.
- Evaluate how SEEP plays a role in the Hogtown Creek and Lake Alice Watersheds, and then create a sign and/or video to educate NATL visitors.
- Feel free to be creative! Propose your own idea that could enhance the information infrastructure of NATL.

## How applications are evaluated

Proposals will be circulated among NAAC members. Members will have one week to discuss proposal merits and a second week to vote and make a final decision. Projects that produce tangible products that have direct benefits for NATL users will be prioritized. By November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the NAAC chair will notify the applicants of the funding decisions.

## Fiscal details

When a minigrant is awarded, \$500 will be made available for transfer from the NAAC account to a sponsor-designated account in the sponsor's department. The sponsor will be responsible for seeing that an account is available to receive the transfer and that the money is used to support the project-related needs of the student proposer. If the funds exceed these needs, the faculty sponsor may use the money to support other aspects of the proposer's or the sponsor's program.



# 2013 NATL Minigrant Program Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted by **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013** as an MS Word or PDF file attached to an email message to [natl@ufl.edu](mailto:natl@ufl.edu), with a signed paper copy sent by campus mail to Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman, NAAC Chair, PO Box 110620, Campus Mail.

To be considered, submissions must include the **bold-faced items** indicated below, and consist of no more than three pages.

## Proposer or designated leader of a student group

**Name**  
**Academic classification**  
**Department**  
**E-mail address**  
**Postal address**  
**Phone number(s)**  
**Experience or training related to proposed project**

## Sponsor (must be a UF faculty member)

**Name**  
**Department**  
**E-mail address**  
**Campus-mail address**  
**Phone number(s)**

## Title of project

**Project summary-** Should be no more than 150 words.

**Starting date-** Must be in the Spring 2014 semester.

**Completion date-** Must be no later than six months after starting date or prior to graduation if Spring 2014 is the student's final semester at UF.

## Description of project

Describe objectives, procedures, and any potential lasting impacts on NATL. Provide a budget that details how funds will be spent. Tell what will be delivered to NAAC by the completion date of the project and how the results of the project will be of value to future users of NATL. All results must be delivered in digital format so they can be posted on the NATL web site at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu>.

## Provision for periodic communication with NAAC administration

Describe how the NAAC Chair will be kept informed of progress on the minigrant project and have opportunities to offer help and advice. For example, while working on the minigrant, the proposer could meet monthly with the NAAC Chair. We also expect grantees to post pictures of their work on our Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/NATL.UF>) and Twitter accounts (<http://twitter.com/UFNATL>).

## Signatures

Only the paper copy needs to be signed.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

