

Minigrant Program

for UF's Natural Area Teaching Laboratory

Summary

UF's Natural Area Advisory Committee [NAAC] will award "minigrants" of \$500 to encourage projects that enhance the information infrastructure of the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory [NATL].

Who is eligible

UF students who wish to complete a project that will produce useful new information about NATL or will improve access to what is already known.

Requirements

Student must have a sponsor who is a UF faculty member. The student and sponsor must prepare an application and submit an electronic version by email and a signed paper copy by campus mail. Directions on how to apply are on the back of this sheet and posted at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/minigrants.htm>.

Dates for first minigrants

30 Nov 2004. Deadline for submission of applications.

14 Dec 2004. One or two minigrants will be awarded.

Examples of suitable projects

A list of suggested projects is at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/minigrants.htm>. The list is not exhaustive but is intended to illustrate the type and scope of projects that NAAC considers suitable. When NAAC members voted on how they would rank the suggested projects should the proposals otherwise be equal, the three highest-ranking projects were:

- Determine and describe the vegetational history of NATL.
[How old are those big longleaf pines? What portions of the hammock is entirely second growth from the past 75 years?]
- Update the 1997 grid-based photographic record of NATL's vegetation.
[This should be done in January to made the images more comparable with the ones from 1997. The 1997 images are at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/gridphotos.htm>.]
- Determine and describe the land-use history of NATL.
[Starting with the Spanish land grants, who has owned the land and what use has been made of it.]

How applications will be evaluated

The proposals will be sent by email to NAAC members as they are received. Members will have until 9 Dec 2004 to discuss the proposals by email. No later than 13 Dec, each NAAC member will assign a rank to each proposal and vote whether the top two (rather than only one) should be funded. The consensus rank and the vote as to how many minigrants to award will determine which one or two projects are funded.

Fiscal details

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

The minigrant program is funded by private donors.