UF's Natural Area Teaching Laboratory
2012 NATL Minigrant Program

In 2012, UF's Natural Area Advisory Committee [NAAC] will award up to two minigrants of $500 each to fund 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 UF students with a designated leader.

Requirements

Students or groups 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 Thursday February 9th, 2012.

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 enhance the usefulness of NATL for teaching or research.

• Update the list of vascular plants that occur in SEEP.

• Help reconstruct the history of NATL's trees by determining the age of selected living trees by coring and the age of selected dead trees by counting rings in sections of the lower trunk. Tools can be provided.

• Help develop activities that will stimulate students to volunteer for NATL.

• Generate material that will stimulate bird watching in NATL.

• Evaluate the importance of NATL on educational activities at UF.

• Using existing GPS data, add the hardwoods in NATL-east to Layer 5 of NATL's GIS (http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/GISmap.htm). [NATL pines are already in that layer.]

How applications are evaluated

Proposals will be circulated among NAAC members. Members will have one week to discuss them 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 February 23rd 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.

2012 NATL Minigrant Program
Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted by **February 9th 2012** as an MS Word or PDF file attached to an email message to 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 2012 semester.

Completion date
Must be no later than six months after starting date.

Description of project
Describe objectives, procedures, and any potential lasting impacts on NATL. 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 your 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_____