

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

for environmental education

Nature in Words Fellowship *Reflections of the natural world*

2021 Application

General Information

1. Purpose:

The purpose of the *Nature in Words* program is to nurture the creative development of a promising student writer who is interested in creating works that are inspired and influenced by the natural world. The Institute believes the opportunity to combine field experiences, through research or a creative project, with reflection and immersion in writing will result in a meaningful, and possibly life-changing, learning experience for an emerging student writer. Projects may involve creative or professional writing, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or drama. Proposals that create works that can be used by the Institute are encouraged. Depending on the genre, the end product should be comparable to two or three complete essays, 50 – 75 pages total. Proposals that are interdisciplinary or connect an Environmental Research Grant and/or the Gordon Art Fellowship are welcomed.

The Institute is planning to support and carry out this program in a safe manner and may adjust the timing of the program and availability of housing and workspace due to the coronavirus pandemic.

2. Eligibility:

The *Nature in Words* program is available to a student and faculty mentor of the Pierce Cedar Creek Consortium (see list at <https://cedarcreekinstitute.org/research.html>). Full-time students who have not yet completed the requirements for graduation are eligible. Students must be over 18 by the start of the project. Applicants who are not citizens of the United States should contact the Institute prior to applying to make special arrangements.

3. Grant Award:

Budget requests should include the following (if applicable):

- Student stipends – undergraduate applicants should request \$4,500. Graduate students may request up to \$4500 if they are not receiving stipend support from their home institution.

- Faculty stipends – applicants can request up to \$3000 as a stipend for the faculty mentor.
- Project support - applicants can request up to \$3500 for equipment, supplies, and project related travel for the faculty and students.
- The maximum amount that may be requested for a project is \$8000.

Each student applicant can also request up to 12 weeks of on-site housing and meal support while at the Institute during the summer months. Housing and meal service (continental breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday) is scheduled to be available for researchers from mid-May until mid-August. The announcement of the funded projects will be made by March 15, 2021.

4. Responsibilities and Reporting:

The participants of all funded projects will need to sign a grant agreement and return it to the Institute by March 31, 2021. The grant agreement signifies that the grantees accept the responsibility to complete the proposed project and agree to the terms and conditions of the grant.

The following is required for all grantees:

1. Participate in an orientation meeting on April 17, 2021.
2. Fellows are expected to participate in the summer program including weekly meetings and service hours. Faculty are expected to lead one of the weekly meetings for the fellows.
3. Fellows are required to complete 20 service hours of over the summer.
4. Fellows will provide a progress presentation and report in late June.
5. Fellows will present results of their summer work on October 2, 2021 during the Research Report Meeting.
6. Fellows must submit their work and a summary of their experience by October 21, 2021. All documents and reports submitted to Pierce Cedar Creek Institute will become the property of the Institute to use and duplicate at the Institute's discretion.
7. Students and faculty mentors are required to participate in the evaluation of the program.

The student writer will spend his or her time in the creation of one or a group of completed works, and provide a completed manuscript, plus a statement of rationale, purpose, or inspiration in relation to his or her experience.

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute will be given rights to use the works completed in relation to the *Nature in Words* program in non-commercial publications. In addition to presentations at the Institute, grantees are strongly encouraged to present their work elsewhere.

5. Grant Payments:

Fellowship stipends will be paid in five installments, with the last after the final project report is approved. Mentor stipends will be paid in two lump sums, the first after the interim

report is accepted and the second after the final project report is approved. Equipment and travel reimbursements can be submitted as they occur. All reports and payment requests are due by November 15, 2021.

Application and Guidelines

1. Application:

The completed application must be emailed as a.docx file to Matthew Dykstra (dykstram@cedarcreekinstitute.org) by February 4, 2021. The application should have 1-inch margins and be in 11- or 12-point font. Up to date versions of the application are available at: <https://cedarcreekinstitute.org/research.html>.

Applications must include:

- a. A completed **cover sheet** (see below).
- b. One paragraph **synopsis** of project written for the layperson (200 words max).
- c. Maximum two-page **description of proposed project**. What are the goals and activities? How will this grant further the student's writing endeavors? What will be the end result of the completed project?
- d. **Timetable** for this project.
- e. **Budget**, explaining any materials and/or supplies to be purchased. Include other anticipated sources of support, if any.
- f. **Statements of commitment** from mentor and student to commit the time needed to complete the project successfully and on time.
- g. Student's **resume** and faculty mentor **Summary Vitae** (short CV).
- h. Student's **unofficial transcript** reflecting courses completed and grades received.
- i. **Recommendation letter** from faculty mentor for the student applicant.
- j. Student **written work samples**. (Limited to 15 pages) Must represent work completed by the student within the last four years. Please state how the writing samples relate to the proposal in 50 words or less.

Any questions regarding the grants can be directed to: Matthew Dykstra - Field Station Manager, dykstram@cedarcreekinstitute.org or 269-721-4473

2. Award Evaluation Criteria

The following factors will be considered in making award decisions for the *Nature in Words* program:

1. Project is relevant to the student's interests and experience.
2. Project adds to the appreciation and/or understanding of the natural world of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, including ways to share the student's skills and talents with the community at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute.
3. Budget is reasonable.
4. Clear demonstration of the role of the mentor in the project.
5. Clear demonstration of how the student's background, experience, and interests contribute to the project and ensure that the project will be successfully completed.

Nature in Words Fellowship

Application - Cover Sheet

Deadline: February 4, 2021

College or University:

Student

Name:
Local Address:
Permanent Address:
Phone: E-mail:
Major: Emphasis (if applicable):
Anticipated graduation date: Current GPA:
Are you a US Citizen?

Faculty

Name: Department:
Address:
Phone: E-mail:

1. **Title of Project:**
Dates of Project: to

Institute On-site Housing and Meal Support (Estimated number of days onsite)

Student: days overnights Faculty: days overnights

2. **Budget Summary**

a. Student Stipend Request	\$4500
b. Faculty Stipend Request	\$
c. Project Support (i.e. supplies, equipment, travel, etc):	\$
Total	\$_____

Signatures - By signing below, researchers are confirming that if funded they will follow the requirements of the grant and commit sufficient time and effort to ensure completion of the proposed work.

Student Artist

Date

Faculty Mentor

Date

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