



2019 NWF RecycleMania Graduate Student Research Fellowship – Plastics Pollution Toolkit Project Request for Applications

Topic: Research and development of a Plastics Pollution Campaign Toolkit – Keeping Plastic Waste out of U.S. Watersheds and Oceans for the RecycleMania Competition.

Location: Any U.S. location

Background:

National Wildlife Federation is the managing partner for the national RecycleMania Program. RecycleMania is a college and university competition focused on helping campuses improve their recycling and reduce waste on campus. One of the major threats to wildlife is the increasing amount of plastic pollution that is ending up in our natural environment, specifically in our streams, rivers, bays and oceans. NWF would like to create a new resource in the form of a toolkit to advance campus efforts to address plastics pollution on campus and in the environment.

Goal of Fellowship: Develop a Plastics Pollution Campaign Toolkit for the RecycleMania Program

Key Responsibilities

- Register and maintain an active personal profile and presence on NWF EcoLeaders community, and promote to personal network
- Create project plan for a 4-6 month Fellowship term based on desired goal (stated above)
- Develop a Plastics Pollution Campaign Toolkit (Keeping Plastic Waste out of U.S. Watersheds and Oceans) for the RecycleMania competition that could include, but not limited to, best practices in reducing plastics (using reusable vs. single-use items) and discarding (including recycling) of plastics responsibly; student, faculty, staff engagement opportunities; wildlife threats from plastic pollution; action opportunities for campuses to take from basic level to more intensive level; resources list; campus policy examples on best practices in plastics recycling, minimization and/or banning of certain types plastic materials (for example banning styrofoam); marketing material templates, communication strategies, etc. Since this is a National Wildlife Federation effort, wildlife should be a recurring theme throughout the toolkit and used in marketing materials templates, etc.

Fellowship Program Requirements:

- Participate in Fellowship kick-off call - date TBD
- Participate in periodic phone check-ins with NWF staff about project status and responsibilities
- Submit biweekly project updates throughout the Fellowship detailing the progress you have made and plans for the duration of your Fellowship

Perks and Privileges:

- \$3,000 stipend
- Professional development assistance and networking
- Possibility of academic credit for successful completion of the project, as an independent study or integration of fellowship project into course curricula

Eligibility: Graduate students from any college or university within the U.S. are eligible to apply. Applications are invited from students in all disciplines and are not limited to environmental studies majors. Current and former employees of National Wildlife Federation and former NWF Campus Ecology Fellows are ineligible to apply. Former NWF interns are eligible to apply following one year from their final work date. The name on the application must be limited to **one individual** and the Fellowship reporting, training, or other requirements cannot be transferred to or shared with another student. Additional involvement should be noted in the proposal. The applicant must be enrolled in school through the duration of the 4 month grant period.

Grant Terms:

The Fellowship is for a term of 4-6 months, depending on Fellow's schedule. The fellow will begin in mid-April 2019 specific date TBD. Fellows spend various amounts of time on their projects each week. The average amount of time spent is 10 hours weekly or 40 hours monthly. The time invested by each student is typically considerable, but it is also flexible to account for schoolwork and other commitments and the working style of each Fellow. Fellows will receive a stipend for their work. Any Fellowship-related expenses accrued during the Fellowship period should be covered by the stipend.

Payments are dispersed in two installments: First installment of grant awards are made within two weeks of awarding the fellowship and finalizing fellowship agreement. The second installment will be made by August 31, 2019. Grant funds may be distributed to the student directly (with submission of a W-9) or to an Administrative Office on campus (e.g. Research, Grants and Contracts Office, Financial Aid Office, Campus Sustainability Office) to the attention of the appropriate administrator. Grant funds may be taxable; consult your tax advisor for U.S. Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements.

How to Apply:

1. Carefully review the information provided in this document.
2. Complete and submit the application form for the 2019 NWF RecycleMania Graduate Student Research Fellowship – Plastics Pollution Toolkit Project, [HERE](#).
3. Submit an electronic letter of recommendation from your identified Advisor via PDF attachment to Fellows@nwf.org

All applicants must identify and work with an Advisor for the duration of the grant period. An advisor is a member of the staff, faculty, or administration on your campus who is willing to serve in an advisory capacity for the duration of the grant period. The advisor should be from the department on campus this is most closely related to your fellowship and can validate that the project is one that is supported by the department and/or campus.

Please secure an electronic copy of a letter of recommendation from the Advisor explaining the qualifications of the applicant and his or her role in advising the student and submit the letter as a PDF attachment via email to Fellows@nwf.org

The deadline to submit applications is April 20, 2019 by midnight.

Applications are reviewed by a committee to determine which meet the selection criteria. All applicants will be notified of their status within one month of their application deadline.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- Demonstrated interest in and experience working within or with diverse constituencies
- Engagement with students, faculty, community organizations, and businesses
- Interest in conservation of wildlife and habitat
- Strong communication skills of applicant to build diverse constituency
- Initiative to overcome barriers and seek alternative avenues when necessary
- Proactive research and outreach to ensure project will successfully achieve the above
- Commitment to advancing environmental initiatives on academic, personal, and professional levels
- Desire to remain an active member in NWF after the conclusion of the Fellowship