Research Award Program

Sacred Sites Research Inc. (SSR) is offering cash awards up to $7000 for research related to pictograph and petroglyph sites in North America. Our goal is to increase the number of rock art sites, or portions of these sites, that are recorded according to standards accepted by SSR. All sites will be considered for support, but those located on private lands (where there is little opportunity for support from a land managing agency) are considered more appropriate for funding from this program. This does not mean that sites on state or federal lands cannot be submitted for funding under this program, but an application to record such a site should include some support from the managing agency.

Support will be emphasized for significant sites that are threatened by increased erosion, vandalism, or being seriously damaged (especially when the threat is unexpected) such as acts of nature. Lack of attention by the land-managing state or federal agency is not a criterion for site selection.

While the emphasis in this program is obtaining better information for unrecorded sites, we will also consider applications for research in rock art archives or archaeological records and curation facilities. This research could lead to a paper delivered at a meeting, a publication or a National Register of Historic Places Nomination. In fact, a National Register nomination might be an excellent way to utilize an SSR award.

Record searches are important. Indeed, an excellent proposal would be to ask for $500 to $1000 to visit a cultural resource records facility, or rock art archives, to learn as much as possible about a site and then visit that site, secure permissions to record it, identify the numbers of panels and the amount of time to get the fieldwork completed. Then submit the updated site information with a second request for funding to actually record the site.

Research at sites which are already recorded will also be considered. For example, a well-recorded site might be a candidate to receive funding to radiocarbon date paintings through Plasma Oxidation. Or a site might have been recorded before the development of DStretch or other technology that would update the site record.

Eligible Applicants

Any person can apply but they must demonstrate they are capable of initiating and completing a project that meets SSR recording standards. Any experience recording rock art sites should be emphasized in your proposal. Site documentation must comply with the specifications set by the appropriate State or Tribal Historic Preservation Office or other State or Federal land-managing agencies for site forms, panel forms and reports. Applicants must show they are familiar with these forms.

Permits are often required from the appropriate state or federal agency to record rock art sites on lands administered by that agency. An applicant must have such permits or show they can obtain them.

Students in college or university programs, usually for a graduate degree, will receive priority for SSR funding. Members of Federally recognized American Indian tribes, or applicants who show they have American Indians as an integral part of their research, are strongly encouraged to apply for these funds.

Proposals

All proposals are submitted electronically to Sacred Sites Research by using the following email address. Applicants are strongly encouraged to write Larry Loendorf with preliminary ideas for projects at LLLoendorf8910@gmail.com. He will discuss the feasibility of funding before you prepare a proposal.

The text of the technical proposal must be less than six (6) single space pages, including illustrations. The bibliography, resumes, and proposed budget are separate attachments that do not count against the page limit. The bibliography must show a grasp of the literature, published articles and unpublished reports, regarding the proposed project. The text must be in a font size no smaller than 11.

Every proposal must have a Principal Investigator and that individual must submit a resumé or vitae (not to exceed three pages) with the proposal. Team members who are assisting on the project should be named but their vitae do not need to accompany the proposal.

The proposal should begin with a short description of the project or site if one is to be recorded. The emphasis should then be on how the applicant plans to complete the research. SSR uses a ten step approach to recording rock art sites, although not all steps are followed for each project. An applicant who plans to record a site needs to be certain the proposal they submit will meet or exceed the SSR standards. SSR's ten steps to recording a rock art site can be obtained by request.

All proposals must include start and completion dates. SSR requires progress reports. Dates for the progress reports will be mutually determined at the time of the award. If the project includes field time, SSR must be notified at the beginning and end of the fieldwork. SSR may want to visit the project during the field work.

A typical proposal will include the applicant's name, address, telephone and email in the heading. A statement of the primary goal or goals for the research with a short description of the project or site should be in the opening paragraphs. A detailed description of the proposed methods planned to record the site or to complete the research is an essential component. The personnel who will work on the project and evidence that the research team can complete the work is important. If they are available, include a photograph of a rock art panel and the drawing made of that panel. Be sure to include the process that is planned to clean-up, ink and reproduce the panel drawings in the laboratory. The timeline for initiating the project with numbers of days for each task should be included. A final summary paragraph is important to succinctly present what you will accomplish with the SSR funds.

Proposed Budget

The budget is a separate document that is no more than one to two pages in length. It should include proposed salaries and wages for personnel, travel, and per diem costs. Salaries and wages should not exceed those paid by the State personnel office for a similar job in the state where the project is to take place. The same applies to mileage and per diem rates. The budget must name the Principal Investigator and any salaried participant. Include volunteer labor or portions of salaries that might be contributed to complete the project.

Costs of field equipment can be included but only for items that need to be replaced by normal wear, like metric folding rules, a compass, painter's tape, graph paper, pens, pencils and items used for tracing, if that is a method proposed to record a site. Report duplication costs are expected to be included in the budget.

Costs of radiocarbon dates can be included but the proposal must show evidence that one of the Plasma Oxidation laboratories in the United States has agreed to be part of the project.

These awards are designed to go to individuals; they do NOT allow any overhead costs for a corporation or institution where an applicant works or an institution through which they might coordinate a project.

Award Schedule

A successful applicant can submit an invoice for 25% of the total award when they begin the research. A second 25% can be billed at the completion of the field work or the archives or records research. The third 25% can be billed at the completion of the panel drawings, and panel forms or a draft report. The remaining quarter of the award is billed after the acceptance of the final report. It is possible to alter this payment schedule but that requires approval from the SSR grant committee.

Letters of Support

Letters of support are important because they show that someone other than you would like your project to be successful. Applicants should ask those who are familiar with the site or with other research you have completed to write a supportive letter to accompany your application. A student's advisor would be a good choice.

Letters of support will not be accepted after the grant deadline. Please address letters of support to Larry Loendorf, Sacred Sites Research, Inc. and include them with the overall submission package

Application Deadlines

SSR operates on a January to December cycle. The proposal deadline is December 31 of the current year. All components of the proposal with the letters of support must be received by this date to be considered in the review process.

Review Process

SSR board members, plus some outside referees, will review the proposals in January. Applicants will be notified of an award in the first week of February. The goal is to have funds available to students in time for spring break so some field reconnaissance could be completed at that time. We anticipate offering one to three of these awards annually.