



MINRC

MINORITIES IN NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) is an organization whose members are the state and federal agencies with primary responsibility for management and protection of the fish and wildlife resources in 16 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its objectives are to cultivate friendly relations and mutual understanding among officials engaged in natural resources conservation and to coordinate the programs they administer. SEAFWA also promotes public understanding and appreciation of the importance of conserving natural resources and encourages the management of fish and wildlife resources. The Minorities in Natural Resources Conservation (MINRC) committee is actively seeking minority fellows to participate in the 77th Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Conference on October 15-18, 2023. During the SEAFWA Conference, MINRC will conduct fellow workshops that will provide valuable career development information. Fellows will participate in discussions and gain information on selected topics relevant to seeking employment in the natural resource field. A keynote speaker will motivate the fellows to continue their quest to reach their goals. There will also be opportunities for fellows to speak with professionals regarding employment prospects. For more information on the conference, go to <http://www.seafwa.org/conference/>.

The following expenses will be awarded to minority fellows who have been traditionally underrepresented in the conservation profession:

- Hotel (2 fellows per room)
- Meals
- Conference Registration
- Airfare or reimbursement of gas with a receipt

Fellows are responsible for their means of transportation to and from their local airport and personal miscellaneous expenses. Completed application and all materials are due September 4, 2023 and must be submitted electronically to SEAFWA.MINRC@gmail.com. Fellows will be notified during the week of September 18, 2023, to confirm their registration status, where and what time to report to the conference.

Applicant Criteria:

- At the time of application, must be a current college student, or graduated within the previous 12 months, or currently enrolled in a post-graduate program from one of the following southeastern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- Minimum Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher.
- Must be pursuing a degree in a natural resources or conservation related field or have a career interest in conservation and natural resources.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.



2023 Fellow Stipend Application

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address: _____
City State Zip Code

County: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____
City State Zip Code

Classification: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Graduate ___ Recent Graduate

Major/Minor: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____ Gender: _____

Have you been a previous MINRC Stipend recipient? Yes No

Are you presenting? (Check one if applicable) Oral Poster Other (specify) _____

Title of oral/poster, if applicable: _____

How did you hear of this opportunity? *(If from a professor, advisor, etc., please provide that person's name and spell out all acronyms)*

The following materials must accompany this completed application form:

- A copy of your most recent unofficial transcripts
- A letter of recommendation from a college advisor OR a faculty member

Please explain why attending this conference would help you in your career goals and how attending would help you grow to make a difference in conservation? (300-450 words):

I acknowledge that if chosen to attend I will be required to write and submit a 1000-1200 word essay. The deadline for the essay submission is September 25th 7:00 pm Eastern time. The best-written paper will qualify for the Teddy Roosevelt award given by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The essay topic is: ***“Conservation of our natural resources impacts everyone, but several studies have proven that the impacts of climate change have disproportionately affected marginalized communities. Discuss an event where this is true and describe what you think the role of conservation agencies should be in these events, and how you could make a positive impact”.***

President Theodore Roosevelt was one of the most powerful voices in the history of American conservation. After becoming president in 1901, Roosevelt used his authority to establish 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves, four national game preserves, five national parks, and 18 national monuments on over 230 million acres of public land. The essay award was developed to honor the conservation history that Roosevelt implemented and to foster our emerging conservationists to think on how we all can continue the legacy.

Essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Topic Presentation
- Organization
- Understanding the topic
- Work Choice
- Sentence Structure
- Grammar

I acknowledge that if chosen to attend I will be required to bring a resume to the Conference for the student workshop.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Completed application and all materials are due September 4, 2023, and must be submitted electronically to
Alix Pedraza @ SEAFWA.MINRC@gmail.com.**