

CNPS Bryophyte Chapter Scholarships

Request for Proposals

Rationale and Prospectus

The Bryophyte Chapter of the California Naive Plant Society aims to facilitate work with mosses, liverworts and hornworts of California to be done by college students, undergraduate and graduate, in the hopes that some will go on to a life in bryology. We offer money in two tiers:

- [A travel scholarship](#)
- [A mini-grant](#)

Travel Scholarship

The travel scholarship is meant to partially defer the costs of a beginning student who is not yet ready to be a key person in a research endeavor. It could go to someone who wants to attend a meeting (SO BE FREE or ABLs) for the first time or who wants to spend a week with a more experienced bryologist. The amount is set at \$250. The number and amount of awards will depend on the number of applications deemed worthy and on available funding.

Eligibility

We will only entertain proposals from CNPS members who are affiliated with the Bryophyte Chapter, although that affiliation may be met just before the proposal is submitted. For the foreseeable future, grants are intended to support work by college students, undergraduate or graduate.

How to Apply

1. Make a cover page of the proposal that starts with a title. Next present your name, email address, and paper mail address. Provide the name, phone number, and email address of someone familiar with your scholarly promise who has agreed to recommend you as a promising student.
2. Give a **one-page** max sketch of your travel need, your background and aspirations as regards the study of bryophytes and if it is not obvious your connection to California.

Research Mini-Grant

The mini-grant is meant to partially support research on the mosses, liverworts and hornworts of California. The research we are particularly interested in is related to biodiversity, ecological function, and conservation. Projects that generate voucher specimens are expected to deposit those in a public herbarium; if existing specimens in herbaria are used, annotation is also expected. Similarly, data should be placed in public databases when appropriate. We aim to support research that will be published in peer-reviewed journals and in other scholarly venues (e.g. floristic or taxonomic treatments to be placed

on the web after professional review; presentations given at scientific conferences). One of the long-term goals of the Chapter is to revise the [California Moss eFlora](#), so a credible proposal to revamp a genus treatment would, for example, be viewed favorably. Another example of an appropriate proposal would be to survey for a rare bryophyte, assess threats, and pull together the scientific case for how it could be protected. The research proposed should be well aligned with the mission of the Bryophyte Chapter and of the Society. The number and amount of awards will depend on the number of applications deemed worthy and on available funding. Individual awards during this initial request for proposals are unlikely to exceed \$500. The amount requested should reflect the scope of the work.

Eligibility

We will only entertain proposals from CNPS members who are affiliated with the Bryophyte Chapter, although that affiliation may be met just before the proposal is submitted. For the foreseeable future, grants are intended to support work by university students. The research should include bryophytes that occur in or near California (although the researcher's home institution may be outside California). Funds can be used to support fieldwork, visits to herbaria, small equipment purchases, expendable materials, and bryophyte books. Evidence that partial funding is being sought from other sources will be viewed positively and taken into account. Those who have received a mini-grant in the past may apply for additional funding associated with additional research; the success of the earlier research will be a criterion for a subsequent scholarship.

How to Apply

1. Make a cover page of the proposal that starts with a title. Next present your name, email address, and paper mail address. If the nature of the work is not obvious from the title, a short summary may also be included. If you have not been a long-time member affiliated with the Bryophyte Chapter, state how you joined and when. Finally, provide the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of two persons familiar with your work who have agreed to recommend it and you as a promising researcher.
2. The text of the proposal should be no more than 1000 words, not counting references and legends for up to three figures or tables. The text of the proposal should tell us why the work is interesting or important, what you expect to accomplish, and what will be produced within 24 months of having received funding. It may also give a longer timeline for the larger research program and state the ultimate product (e.g. a publication), but please realize that for such larger projects we will judge based on the piece to be produced on a short turnaround time. If you have previously received a CNPS Bryophyte Chapter mini-grant, include a short report on that research and its results.
3. Give a one-page biographical sketch. This may include past publications, other grants recently sought/received for the larger project, relevant experience, and a short statement of financial need.

4. An itemized budget should be given in ledger format. It may include the total expected cost of the whole project with the portion to be supported by the Bryophyte Chapter footnoted. Each such footnote/item should lead to a justification of one or a few sentences. The budget and its justification should not exceed two pages and in most cases will fit on one page.
5. If collections are needed to implement the project, show evidence of permits or at least that you've applied. Similarly, a very short email from a cooperating entity, such as an agency or a collaborator, may be included.
6. Please make one PDF of the proposal as a whole and email it to:
bryophytechaptercnps@gmail.com.

Deadline

Applications for either type of funding should be received by **1 January** or **1 July** of each year. However, all awards are subject to the availability of Chapter funds. If your project start date is soon, then you may inquire as to whether we are eager for applications for the next deadline.

Evaluation Process

A member of the Bryophyte Chapter Board of Directors will examine each proposal. If it is in order, s/he will send it out for *ad hoc* review and might contact recommenders immediately. When qualified, directors may themselves serve as reviewers. Once it is with the reviewers, receipt of the application will be acknowledged. Reviewers will recommend simply to fund or may reply at greater length. If a proposal is considered fundable or better, the board will contact the recommenders listed in the proposal if this has not already been done. The comments of recommenders will be kept from the applicant to the fullest extent possible. Our expectation is to allocate funds within two months after each of the deadline dates. Directors whose students or close associates have applications pending will not vote on the awards for that funding period. *Ad hoc* reviews will be given to the applicants after the names of reviewers have been redacted. No further reasons will be given for not funding a proposal, except possibly in the case when the Board wishes to encourage resubmission. All grant money will go directly to the researcher; no overhead is permitted.

Award Conditions & Awardee Responsibilities

Applicants will be notified via email. Conditions of the award include allowing the Chapter to publish on our website and in *Bryolog* news of who and what we have funded. The Board is not allowed to require a deliverable; however, we certainly want to be told about the products of the research that we (partially) fund. Awardees must be able to account for and document use of all funds, e.g., with receipts and mileage logs. The grant from the Chapter should be acknowledged in talks, theses, and publications.

Note to Donors

This document is not intended primarily for potential or past donors. For an explanation of how we are fundraising to support the mini-grants and to hopefully expand our support for bryological research, please see our “Letter for Donors” [not yet published, but will be soon, and will be linked out from here].