NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium
Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program
2023-2024 Application Form

Application Details
These one-year Fellowships will be awarded competitively to undergraduate students in STEM fields, who will be engaged in a research project during the academic year and/or summer term. A faculty member from the applicant's institution must agree to serve as a mentor and research advisor for the described project. Applicants for these fellowships must be full-time undergraduate students of U.S. citizenship. Brief quarterly progress reports and a final report will be required.

Research Plan
Please upload a well-written (easy to understand, with no grammatical or spelling errors) maximum two-page summary of the research plan in your own words, including a statement of the problem, methodology, budget, and proposed timeline. References and appendices (if any) do not count towards the two-page limit. The document must be in PDF format and single-spaced using Times New Roman (TNR) font size 12, 1″ margin on all sides. This research plan must be reviewed and approved by the applicant's faculty mentor. Please be aware that reviewers of the proposal may not be experts within your field of study, and the proposal should be written accordingly. Proposals should be written with minimal use of jargon. Mentors may provide editorial and revision assistance for student proposals, but they must be primarily the work of student applicants.

Please note that all proposals must align with one of the five NASA Mission Directorates. (Aeronautics Research, Science, Space Technology, Exploration Systems Development, or Space Operations). To read about the latest programs and current interests for the Mission Directorates, please click **here**. Failure to clearly indicate the alignment with a NASA Mission Directorate will result in disqualification of the proposal and it not being forwarded to the reviewers.

Budget
The amount of these awards is $5,000.
Student stipend must be between $3500 and $4500, $500 for travel to present research should be included, and you can include a maximum of $1000 towards supplies.
NOTE: total NASA budget must add to $5,000. *As an example:*
a) *$3,500 student stipend, $1,000 for supplies and $500 travel to present research.*
b) *$4,000 student stipend, $500 for supplies and $500 travel to present research.*
c) *$4,500 student stipend, $500 travel to present research.*

In preparing your budget, you should have a section each for stipend, travel, and supplies.
- Stipend: Identify your hours per week at what rate of pay over what time periods.
- Travel funds: identify what conference you plan to attend – you can attend virtually or in-person and it can be local, regional, or national. Student must provide a copy of presentation and venue information to the Space Grant office before release of travel allowance.

- Supplies: Identify what supplies you will need to purchase for your project. Identify if those costs are requested from the NASA grant or are being supplied by your research advisor or dept. *e.g., $500 for consumables and reagents that are necessary for quantification of soil enzymes associated with the cycling and storage of C, N and P (NASA funding); $1500 is requested for reagents associated with molecular sample preparations (e.g., DNA extraction, purification, and quantification, PCR amplification – research advisor funding). $1000 for Procurement of surgical consumables for dissection and specimen preparation (NASA); no other materials needed.*

Essay

The applicant is required to submit a statement of no more than two-pages addressing the following items:

- Applicant's motivation for completing the proposed research project
- Applicant's academic achievements, leadership qualities, extracurricular activities, and/or work activities
- Applicant's research experience (in and/or out of class), career interests, and professional goals
- Acknowledgment of any prior WVSGC funding and a brief description of previous projects funded.

Education History and Resume

The applicant will also upload their resume and an unofficial copy of your transcript or attach a list of your STEM courses that you took, and the grade associated with the class. Optional text to include, in less than 500 words please tell us if there is anything else you want us to know about your GPA.

Evaluation:

The Consortium will award these grants based on the following criteria:

- Soundness and technical merit of the proposed research (50 points)
- Budget (10 points)
- Student's essay (40 points)

Proposal due date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by 11:59 PM (EST)
Mentor Endorsement due date: Friday, March 10, 2023, by 11:59 PM (EST)
Award announcement date: Early-May 2023
Anticipated project start date: May 16, 2023
Project duration: One year

Apply/Submit:

Undergraduate student applicants must complete the online application **here.**