

Proposal for ACS Model Internship Grant
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Introduction

I am requesting consideration for the ACS Student Development and Engagement Model Internship Grant in order to provide necessary funds for travel and gear purchase during my internship at Denali National Park, Alaska, this summer and early fall. I have accepted the internship through the Geological Society of America's GeoCorps program, which places undergraduate and graduate students in academic research geology positions in federal lands throughout America. I intend to use whatever funds allocated by this grant to aid in the purchase of a plane ticket to and from Fairbanks, Alaska, from my home in Birmingham, Alabama, as well as to purchase the backcountry camping gear required for the internship. In my preliminary searches, I have found that a round-trip ticket will cost approximately \$500. I also will need to purchase a backpack and inclement-weather clothing for backcountry work, which will likely total \$200 to \$350.

Project Description

As stated above, the project on which I will be working is the G.S.A.'s GeoCorps internship in Denali National Park, Alaska. This year's project is under the supervision of Mr. Phil Brease, National Park Geologist at Denali NP, and focuses on the mapping of the Cantwell Formation in the southern half of the park. The Cantwell Formation is a several-hundred meter-thick sedimentary deposit of alluvial origin that is late Cretaceous in age. My duties for the summer will be to seek, map, and describe paleosol strata within the Cantwell in order to aid geologists in further understanding the paleoenvironment at the time of deposition. In order to do this, I will be doing field research for 2-3 days at a time in the backcountry followed by a day documenting and mapping my previous findings. The position begins on June 5, 2006, and will continue until mid-September 2006. The Geological Society of America provides a \$2500 stipend for the duration of the internship, and I believe I will spend that much or more on travel and living expenses.

-Budget Proposal:

I will be in Denali National Park for twelve weeks, beginning June 5, 2006, which comes to \$2400 at the living expense rate of \$200 per week. This would be covered by the stipend provided by the G.S.A. for the program. Before my arrival in Alaska, I will need to purchase several items required for the fulfillment of the internship. I have included these items with their approximate expected prices in the list below:

-Airfare, roundtrip from Atlanta to Anchorage:	\$500
-Large-capacity backpack for field work:	\$100
-Gore-Tex rain gear:	\$250
-Brunton Field Transit Compass	\$150
-Heavy boots	\$150

I would like to request \$1150 for the total grant amount.

Evaluation and Dissemination

As with many other academic endeavors in the sciences, success or failure with this project will be hard to quantify. Whatever discoveries are made, be they what were expected or not, will be 'successes'. Whatever data is gleaned from my field work will

aid future geologists and paleoecologists in better understanding a short period of Earth history, and will be accessible to scientists for future study.

Institutional Approval

Dr. Lucia Dale, ACS Faculty Fellow at the University of the South, sent an email on my behalf to David Anderson confirming my proposal.

Personal Statement

I am a senior at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and will graduate in May 2006 with a B.S. in geology. Over the past four years, I have devoted myself to my studies and to certain extracurricular and environmental activities. My cumulative G.P.A. is 3.00, while my G.P.A. in courses within my major is 3.38. I have completed two semesters of independent studies on the hydrology of Lost Cove (a local large karst feature in the southern Cumberland Plateau) and presented my research to over 6,000 geoscientists at the 2005 Geological Society of America Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. I have also tutored introductory geology students during my academic career.

I am an active leader in the Sewanee Outing Program, a university-sponsored program whose purpose is to encourage and provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff of the University of the South to experience the outdoors. This has enabled me to lead a wide range of people into various outdoor settings: I enjoy accompanying retired and elderly members of my community on wildflower walks as well as leading extremely fit athletes into alpine settings on the continental divide or down the most difficult mountain bike trails in the Southeast. I have devoted much of my time at Sewanee to the Outing Program for one reason: I enjoy sharing the outdoors with others. I have found that it is an excellent way to learn about the environment, other people, and yourself. My involvement with the Outing Program has led to the introduction of the natural environment and the issues that surround it to many people, some of whom have become my friends and have become environmental activists themselves.

Aside from the Sewanee Outing Program, I am involved with Waste Not!, our campus's recycling program; the Sewanee Natural History Club, which sponsors trips to visit rare and endangered species and ecosystems in the area; SERP (Students for an Environmentally Responsible President); and have been active in efforts to promote the enforcement of the University's campus no-driving policy (U. of the South's campus is just over one mile from end to end, with ample sidewalks) and to block the construction of a housing development on one of the campus lakes.

My career goals, on a small scale, are unknown to me. I do know that I would like to attain a Master's degree within the next ten years and find work in the Southeast. Ideally, I would like to work for one of the many conservation groups in my home state of Alabama, such as the Alabama Rivers Alliance, the Alabama Nature Conservancy, the Cahaba River Society, or the Friends of the Locust Fork (I enjoy rivers). I believe that this internship will aid me in reaching my objectives, particularly in gaining acceptance to graduate school, and hope that you will consider my request for aid.