**Tufts Elephant Conservation Alliance (TECA)**

**Funding Guidelines for Student Projects**

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**To further its mission of promoting elephant conservation through education, research, and service, the Tufts Elephant Conservation Alliance is seeking proposals for projects that will be carried out during the summer months.**

**The TECA grant program was originally envisioned as support for students conducting research in the field. However, we recognize that conditions for international travel are still uncertain due to changing pandemic protocols. At this writing, international travel is permitted under university rules, subject to approval of the Dean of your school and the Tufts International Travel Review Committee (see** [**https://global.tufts.edu/global-travel/covid-19-travel-information**](https://global.tufts.edu/global-travel/covid-19-travel-information) **for the latest complete information). Students who are unable to travel are encouraged to submit proposals for research to be conducted remotely, drawing on domestic or online resources or collaborations with individuals in range countries.**

**Who:** Graduate, undergraduate, or professional students from any Tufts campus. Student projects must be sponsored by a faculty mentor. Collaborations between Tufts campuses or with other institutions of higher learning, conservation-driven non-profits, or corporations are encouraged. Students who have ideas for projects but aren’t sure about who might serve as a faculty mentor should e-mail the Center for Animals and Public Policy (capp@tufts.edu) with a brief description of your idea. The Center, which is administering the program, is compiling a list of potential projects and will assist in matching you with a mentor.

**What**: Research, communication, education, art, or service projects that contribute to conservation and/or protection of African or Asian elephants. These could include but are not limited to:

* Contributions to basic understanding of elephant behavior, ecology, and health
* Investigations into the cultural, economic, and political drivers of the trade in elephant ivory or other elephant parts
* Novel technical, cultural, economic, and political approaches to deterring trade in elephant ivory or other elephant parts
* Projects to develop, apply, and/or evaluate innovative methods to mitigate human-elephant conflicts
* Analyses evaluating and suggesting improvements of elephant conservation policies
* Evaluation of health and welfare of captive elephants potentially involved in conservation programs
* Projects that communicate via any medium to a wide or novel segment of the public about elephant conservation and its challenges

**Costs Eligible for Grant Funding include:**

* Travel costs according to Tufts travel policies including economy air, train, or bus fare; automobile mileage or car rental; onsite lodging, and food
* Supplies, and equipment items costing no more than $500
* For projects requiring a full-time commitment of at least 8 weeks, a student summer stipend of up to $5,000; proposals that require less effort are welcome and the stipend will be adjusted on a pro-rated basis

**Application and Award Process:**

* Application form must be filled out and submitted by April 15th to be considered for summer funding that same year. Please note that the mentor’s signature is required.
* E-mail the application as an attachment to the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, capp@tufts.edu, along with a current résumé.
* All proposals will be reviewed by a TECA research subcommittee consisting of at least three members representing at least two Tufts campuses.
* Applicants will be notified of their awards no later than April 30th.

**Awardee Requirements**

* Within one (1) month of the end of the award period, the awardee will be required to submit a final report describing the work done under the award along with any findings, products, or outcomes. Details of the report will be worked out with the mentor, who will sign off on the final version.
* Awardees will also be required to keep a weekly journal describing and reflecting on their work on the project.
* Awardees who are conducting field work are especially encouraged to write and illustrate a blog that can be posted on the TECA website.
* With the awardee’s permission, journal entries and the final report may be posted on the TECA website. Photographs and other illustrative materials will also be welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact one of us:

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