



AVCA Research Fellowship Program Request and Guidelines for Proposals

Winter 2020 Fellowship

Research Fellowship Program

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (AVCA) requests proposals for a Winter 2020 Research Fellowship. The Research Fellowship Program supports research conducted in the Altar Valley of Arizona, with the goal of encouraging meaningful research projects that further the mission and vision of AVCA and support an upcoming generation of scientists. AVCA allocates \$5,000 per year to fellowships and intends to support multiple projects each year. For the Winter 2020 fellowship, \$2,800 is available. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and citizen scientists are encouraged to apply.

Fellowship recipients commit to following the Altar Valley Research Protocol, and cooperating with AVCA partners. AVCA connects the recipients with partners who may support the research or distribution of the results. After projects are completed, research fellows present their findings at the AVCA Annual Community Meeting, write an article for the AVCA website and Annual Report, recognize AVCA as a project contributor, and may pursue other opportunities to share the information gathered with AVCA partners and public. Grants will have a 24-month effective timeline; extensions may be granted with prior approval. Please note that recipients are required to submit documentation for federal taxes and liability insurance.

Application Process

Fellowship Program proposals are accepted on a semi-annual basis, with submission deadlines of March 1 and October 1. **The current application cycle closes on October 1st.** The AVCA staff and Science Advisory Board (SAB) assist applicants with the proposal process. If the proposal is supported by the SAB, it is sent to the Board of Directors for review; the BOD chooses fellowship recipients. The review and decision process takes a maximum of 3 months. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Alignment with AVCA Science Agenda - [link here](#)
- Effective project design,
- Project staff credentials and support,
- Response to AVCA proposal guidelines, particularly relative to outreach and education activities.

To apply, please contact Julia Sittig, the AVCA Conservation and Science Coordinator (julia@altarvalleyconservation.org). Proposals should contain a project description (maximum 5 pages) plus attachments (map, budget, and photos). The project description should include:

- Summary (< 200 words) suitable for website and/or social media
- Goals and objectives
- Study area (with map)
- Methods
- Project schedule
- Personnel and partners
- Budget summary that includes in-kind match (detailed budget may be attached)
- Acknowledgement of AVCA Research Protocol and Science Agenda (AVCA staff will share the Research Protocol with the applicant)
- Budget item breakdown (including in-kind match)
- Up to 3 photographs suitable for website and/or social media

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance is a collaborative conservation organization founded in 1995, and incorporated as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Our vision is that ranchers and other agriculturalists work effectively with our partners to conserve healthy and productive working landscapes, promote a thriving agricultural economy, and sustain a resilient rural community enriched by the culture and history of the Altar Valley.