The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and Park System for present and future generations focusing on the protection and restoration of the Everglades National Park, the surrounding Greater Everglades ecosystem, Biscayne National Park, and connected marine and coral reef ecosystems.

The NPCA is providing up to $5,000 in funds for competitive graduate student awards addressing research initiatives relating to the health and restoration of the Greater Everglades ecosystem, Florida’s coral reef and marine habitats. All students in good-standing enrolled in the FAU Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (thesis and non-thesis) are encouraged to submit proposals. The period of project performance is approximately one-year.

**Application Process & Award Information**

Applicants should submit a research proposal describing the research question and planned work directly to the ES Program Director, Dr. Michelle Petersen at mpeter45@fau.edu. Proposals are due October 16, 2023 via electronic submission.

Total anticipated funding for all awards is $5,000 to support approximately 4-5 proposals. Students must be enrolled in the ES Program and must be in good standing to receive funding.

The anticipated start date should be November 2023 and end in May 2024 (one-year project). Funding is available for equipment, supplies, research-related travel (within Florida-only), and printing costs (e.g., poster). Funds requested for stipends, salaries, tuition, overhead, or travel to conferences will not be approved.

**Research Proposal Content**

Proposals should not exceed 4 pages single-spaced, 11-point font, Times New Roman or Aerial, 1” margins). The proposal should consist of a 2-page narrative, 1-page budget and justification, and 1-page curriculum vita (CV).

The research proposal should include the following sections:
- Project summary
- Background and significance
- Methods
- Anticipated outcomes and faculty advisor
- Itemized budget
- Budget justification
- Relevance to NPCA topic of health and restoration of the Greater Everglades ecosystem, Florida’s coral reef and marine habitats

**Deliverables**
- Reporting of field photos, data collection, story write-up will be required periodically during the one-year project.
- A written report on preliminary findings is required at the end of the one-year project.
- A poster and/or interpretive materials in collaboration with NPCA’s programmatic support is presented at the Environmental Science Program Retreat and/or participation in an approved webinar or in-person event
  - Note FAU poster printing costs: [https://www.fau.edu/sg/services/posterprinting/](https://www.fau.edu/sg/services/posterprinting/)

**Selection criteria:**
- Relevance to topic area
- Articulation of a realistic and detailed plan
- Justification of budget (costs clearly serve purpose)
- Budget sufficient to meet proposed methods
- Scientific significance of project

Proposals selected for funding will be determined by the NPCA Selection Committee consisting of Environmental Science Program Faculty in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science.

**Approximate timetable for proposals and awards**
- October 16, 2023: Proposals due
- November 2023: Funded proposals selected
- Fall 2023-Spring 2024: Project execution and completion
- May 2024: All deliverables completed/submitted