

December 31, 2015

Park Directive 1025

ARKANSAS STATE PARKS LICENSE PLATE FUND

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide alternatives for allocation of funding collected through the Arkansas State Park License Plate Program.

II. Background

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration offers over 100 motor vehicle specialty license plates to Arkansas residents. These plates are sold for \$35 above standard registration, with \$25 going to the sponsoring agency and \$10 going to the Department of Finance and Administration.

Arkansas State Parks has issued its first specialty license plate and continues to do so today under the authority of Act 292 of the Regular Session of 2011. The fees remitted shall be deposited into a cash fund to be used by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism for the following purposes:

- Sponsoring college scholarships in the state parks profession
- State parks education programs

III. Procedures

Scholarships

The License Plate Program provides scholarships for Arkansas residents to attend institutions of higher education within the state and uses funds from license plate sales to assist students in reaching their potential as tomorrow's state park professionals.

Scholarship amounts are subject to decrease based on budget allocations.

IV. Academic Scholarship Applicants:

Eligibility:

A. First-time scholarship recipients must meet the following criteria:

1. Planning to attend an Arkansas college or university.
2. Pursuing a degree that qualifies a candidate for a uniformed staff position. Fields of study should be chosen based on the Department of Higher Education and the Office of Personnel Management list of degrees that qualify an applicant for a career as uniformed personnel with Arkansas State Parks. Approved fields of study include:

- Environmental Interpretation
- Natural Resources, Environmental or Conservation Management
- Forest Resources
- Fisheries and Wildlife Biology
- Environmental Science or Studies
- Forestry
- Wildlife Ecology and Management
- Wildlife Management
- History or Historic Preservation
- Biology
- Criminal Justice or related field
- Botany
- Recreation and Park Administration/Management
- Museumology
- Hospitality Management
- Communications

Note: Other fields of study may be considered in addition to the above list, subject to justification and review by the Award Committee.

3. Demonstrate a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) by providing their most recent official transcript.

4. Verify intent to maintain full time enrollment status throughout the semesters during which they receive the scholarship.
5. Verify Arkansas residency and pay in-state tuition.
6. Comply with first-time application deadline requirements and application paperwork/project requirements. (See application for more details).

B. Renewal Recipients must meet the following criteria:

1. Continue to meet all eligibility requirements
2. Submit a renewal application
3. Provide their most recent official transcript
4. Comply with renewal application deadline requirements. (see renewal application for more details)

C. Award Amounts

1. Scholarships are payable only in Fall and Spring semesters during which students are enrolled full-time.
2. The scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters. Semesters do not have to be consecutive.
3. Award amounts will be based on the college or university status of the student as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior. Awards awarded by semester.
 1. Freshman \$500*
 2. Sophomore \$750*
 3. Junior \$1,000*
 4. Senior \$1,000*

*Note: The above amounts may be increased over time, subject to funding received from Act 292 of 2011.

D. Process of Selection:

First-Time Applicants

1. A detailed database will be kept of all applicants. The database will include:
 - a. Applicant Name
 - b. Permanent Address
 - c. Phone Number
 - d. Email Address
 - e. Last four digits of Social Security Number
 - f. Race

- g. Gender
 - h. University
 - i. Field of Study/Major
 - j. Number of hours completed during pervious semester
 - k. Cumulative GPA
 - l. Date application form and transcript were received
 - m. Date scholarship funding was requested
 - n. Date scholarship funding was issued
 - o. Date scholarship funding was sent to university
2. Applications will be screened for eligibility criteria. Those missing any supporting paperwork or failing to meet eligibility criteria will not pass the screening phase of selection and will be sent a letter or email explaining that their application was missing required criteria.
 3. Selected by the Director of Arkansas State Parks, a committee of three or more non-Arkansas State Parks professionals will score each application meeting minimum qualifications. One of these individuals will serve as the scholarship program coordinator. This committee will not have access to information which is collected by the agency for statistical analysis (ex. gender, race, social security number).
 4. Scoring will be based on rubric which places emphasis on non-subjective criteria form applications.
 5. Scores will be totaled and entered into a spreadsheet to complete ranking.
 6. Scholarships will be awarded competitively, based on ranking, until budgeted funds are exhausted.
 7. First-time scholarships will only be awarded during fall semesters.
 8. Notification will be sent to applicants not receiving scholarships.

Renewal Applicants:

1. A database will be kept for all renewal applicants and will include the same information as the first-time applicant database and will include how many semesters each applicant has received a scholarship.
2. All applications will be screened to verify eligibility. Applications missing supporting documentation or which show the applicant to be otherwise ineligible will not pass the screening phase of selection and

a notification will be sent to the applicant explaining why their scholarship will not be awarded.

3. Scholarship recipients who fail to meet any eligibility criteria, excluding deadlines, in any given semester will from that point forward remain ineligible to receive a scholarship.
4. Students who do not reapply during consecutive semesters will have to submit a first-time application and be scored anew.

E. Appeal Committee

1. For applicants who question their denied status for the scholarship, there will be a formal appeal process. Denied applicants may submit an appeal form and this form will be forwarded to an Appeals Committee. This committee will be composed of a pool of Arkansas State Parks employees including the Scholarship Program Coordinator, representative from the Human Resource section, Manager of Park Operations, and the Director of Arkansas State Parks.

V. Internships

A. Many degrees granted by universities have an internship or field work component. Arkansas State Parks will offer 500-600 plus hour educational internships to students studying various fields who will learn from working at the agency. An internship is an opportunity for students to apply the knowledge they gain in classroom study to real-world situations within an Arkansas State Park. In cooperation with colleges and universities, each student will work under an approved educational work plan for the position. These work plans will be approved by the college/university supervisor and/or designee, requesting Park Superintendent, and Manager of Park Operations.

1. To qualify for an internship, an applicant must meet the following criteria:
 - Declared degree of study.
 - 60 hours of college credit by the time the internship begins.
 - Full-time student at an Arkansas college/university at the time of application.
 - Must be Arkansas resident paying in-state tuition.
 - 2.5 cumulative grade point average.
 - Demonstrate coursework or knowledge related to work area.

Selected interns will coordinate directly with their universities to obtain credit for their work. Priority will be given to interns from universities who provide course credit hours for internships.

2. The internships can encompass more degree opportunities than the scholarship, allowing the agency and the intern to gain valuable experience in other positions besides uniformed staff positions.
3. An internship committee will be appointed by the Director of Arkansas State Parks ((park superintendent(s), regional supervisor(s), and other professionals (HR/or park professional)). The committee would recommend and match applicants to parks and/or positions. Applicants will complete a State of Arkansas employment application.

VI Education Programs:

- A. State Park Field Trip Grants – These would be grants offered to schools (K-12) that have difficulty securing travel funds to visit their local state parks. The grants would focus on a classroom visiting the park during the school year. Priority would be given to field trips that align with the school curriculum and are between September and April. (see attached application)
- B. State Parks Explorer Program – This program’s goal is to connect young people (ages 6-14) to Arkansas’s State Park system through a variety of in-park, open-ended, self-initiated activities that are designed to introduce them to the system and cultivate future generations of park stewards. Funds from the license plate program would support educational materials, supplies and public outreach.
- C. Educational Programs – Funding from the specialty license plate program may fund: visitor centers interpretive galleries and state parks wayside exhibits, brochures, teacher workbooks and guides, related supplies and materials, and programming equipment.

APPROVED BY THE ARKANSAS STATE PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAVEL COMMISSION AT THE FEBRUARY 19, 2015 MEETING AND APPROVED BY THE ARKANSAS ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE AT THE JUNE 10, 2015 MEETING.

APPROVED BY: 
GREG BUTTS, DIRECTOR
Arkansas State Parks



ARKANSAS STATE PARKS
State Parks Profession

CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

Date _____ S.S.N. _____

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ () _____
Day Evening

Email _____

University Attending _____

Major _____

Gender Male Female T-Shirt Size _____

Race African-American Caucasian Asian-American
 Hispanic Other _____

How did you hear about the ASP Conservation Scholarship?
 From a Friend From a Teacher
 Newspaper T.V. Magazine ASP Website
 Other _____

Name of Hometown Newspaper _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of Hometown Newspaper _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Release and Certification: I hereby give permission to use the information provided on this application for recognition purposes, if selected. I understand that I must be registered or accepted as a full-time student at an accredited Arkansas college or university to be eligible to receive a scholarship. To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application is true and correct.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

CHECKLIST

Before you seal your envelope, make sure you've included the following:

- Completed application
- Completed essay questions
- Letter of recommendation
- Official Transcript
- Documentation listing your declared major
- Documentation of Arkansas Residency

Without these documents, applications will not be considered

Mail to:

Arkansas State Parks
ASP Scholarship Program Application
1 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

NOTE: We recommend that you send your application and materials via certified mail or request delivery confirmation when mailing to ensure that we receive it. Exceptions to the deadline cannot be made.



ARKANSAS STATE PARKS
State Parks Profession

CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

Renewal Application

Date _____ S.S.N. _____

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ () _____
Day Evening

Email _____

University Attending _____

Major _____

Gender Male Female T-Shirt Size _____

Race African-American Caucasian Asian-American
 Hispanic Other _____

Release and Certification: I hereby give permission to use the information provided on this application for recognition purposes, if selected. I understand that I must be registered or accepted as a full-time student at an accredited Arkansas college or university to be eligible to receive a scholarship. To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application is true and correct.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

How do I apply

Applicant must maintain a 2.50 GPA or higher to renew each semester. If a semester is skipped, for any reason, a first time application must be submitted

Step 1

Complete all fields of the Renewal Application Form.

Step 2

Complete the Renewal Scholarship Application Form and obtain an official transcript.

If your official transcript does not list your declared field of study (major), you must also include a letter of enrollment (UA-Statement of Standing) from your university registrar's office. Make sure that L.O.E or S.O.S. does not list your declared field of study and mail to:

NOTE: We recommend that you send your application and materials via certified mail or request delivery confirmation when mailing to ensure that we receive it. Exceptions to the deadline cannot be made.

Arkansas State Parks
ASP Scholarship Program Application
1 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

December 31, 2015
Effective until superseded

PD1025

Arkansas State Parks Field Trip Grants
Application for Transportation Funding Assistance

School Information

School _____

District _____

Contact Information

Contact Name _____

Contact Title _____

Email Address _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Lesson Information

Reservation Number _____

Transportation Needs

Number of Buses _____ Amount of Funding Requested _____

Statement of Need: (Attach additional page(s) as needed)
