

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS FOR

Breaking Down Financial Barriers to Fieldwork

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QUOTES FROM CSU COAST FIELD EXPERIENCE SUPPORT PROGRAM AWARDEES ILLUSTRATING THE IMPACT OF THEIR AWARDS

I never go camping so I did not own any of the camping gear that we were required to bring. I had recently missed out on two field trips in my Geomorphology class due to this exact reason. I was afraid that this was going to be a similar situation and was very worried about how I was going to accomplish acquiring all of the camping gear and attire needed ... Throughout my trip I kept thinking how grateful I was for having received the help from COAST because I was able to fully appreciate this field work experience without needing to worry I was missing anything or that what I had brought was not appropriate. This trip included a lot of firsts for me and having the materials needed eased a lot of the anxiety that comes with doing things out of your comfort zone. I was nervous about some of the tasks that we had to do but knowing I had the appropriate water shoes to navigate the rocks and waters helped me tremendously ... I found out that I do love being outside working in the field and I learned so much about what I am capable of.

– San Diego State undergraduate student majoring in Geography (\$1,500 award for personal gear needed for summer hydrology field course)

The research that I am involved in regarding elephant seal population monitoring can be quite physically demanding. I was concerned about my ability to effectively participate in this research if I did not have gear that would offer me protection from the seals, and more importantly, the rain. During one of my field days in the fall, it was raining for almost the entire 3 hours that we were out. I did not own waterproof pants, and that made my experience miserable as my regular jeans quickly became soaked. However, looking back at my last trip with similar wet conditions, I spent over 3 hours in the field and managed to stay dry the entire time due to my new waterproof gear. Thanks to this program, I have been able to participate in field work effectively without needing to worry about how bad the conditions will be.

Furthermore, being able to focus solely on the field work has provided me with substantial experience. I was actually able to find a summer field job monitoring coastal bird populations partly due to the experience I obtained from my elephant seal monitoring! Without the help provided to purchase this gear, I do not think I could have participated in the research that helped me obtain my new job.

– Cal Poly San Luis Obispo undergraduate student majoring in Environmental Management and Protection (\$320 award for personal gear for faculty-led research)

ENDORSEMENTS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTORS OR FACULTY RESEARCH MENTORS

Students must secure endorsements from their course instructors or faculty research mentors that support their requests for funds. The students receive the following instructions:

1. Your CSU instructor or research project leader should be familiar enough with your request to know what you are asking for support to do. For example, they should know if you are asking for support to purchase camping gear, SCUBA gear, waders, or a backpack, etc. They do not need to list individual items you intend to purchase. In the case of a request for travel support, they should know where you are going, how often, and why.
2. If your participation will be through a class, they should list the name and course number of the class and briefly describe the field work in which you will be involved.
3. If your participation will be through a research project led by a CSU faculty member, they should briefly describe the project, your role in it, and the field work in which you will be involved.

Examples of endorsement emails:

Dear CSU COAST,

I am writing to support Jessica Ramirez's application to the COAST Field Experiences Support Program. Jessica is in my Marine Botany of California class (BIO 352) and needs a wetsuit and snorkel gear to collect algae for our class herbarium project. This involves multiple snorkeling trips along the coast during the semester.

Thank you,

Dr. Algae

Dear CSU COAST,

I am writing to support Dave Johnson's application to the COAST Field Experiences Support Program. Dave is an undergraduate student in my lab and is assisting me with field work in Upper Newport Bay. We are surveying coastal wetland plant diversity and sediment characteristics and Dave needs waders and a hat for sun protection. Dave also has to drive his own car to the field site and needs support for this travel expense.

Thank you,

Dr. Mudflat