Scholar-in-Residence Program

Scholar-in-Residence: Research in the Rockies

The Scholar-in-Residence program is inspired by the Artist-in-Residence program in Rocky Mountain National Park. This program follows the tradition of connecting scholarly and scientific experts in their field to the community and educational programming in our National Parks. The Scholar-in-Residence works with Rocky Mountain Conservancy's Field Institute and the Continental Divide Research Learning Center at Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). Rocky Mountain Conservancy (RMC) is the park's nonprofit partner whose mission is to promote stewardship of Rocky Mountain National Park and similar lands through education and philanthropy. This initiative allows a scholar to live and conduct research in Estes Park, Colorado near RMNP. Financial support gives scholars the opportunity to be creative, productive, and successful in conducting research or observations that are uniquely connected to RMNP.

Research in our National Parks has always been essential to the understanding of park resources, but also to the larger scientific understanding of ecosystem processes and global change. The current research priorities of RMNP and additional information about acquiring research permits to perform research within the park are available on the Continental Divide Research Learning Center's research webpage.

Selected scholars participating in Rocky's Scholar-in-Residence Program are asked to submit a published piece of research representative of their residency for public distribution. They are also required to provide at minimum: one 45-minute public presentation, and a one-day Field Institute course hosted through the RMC Field Institute focused on the topic of your research for an adult audience. Presentations can be a demonstration, talk, exploratory walk, or outreach event.

As part of conducting research in the park, scholars are required to provide the park with data and associated materials collected during the research project. Research may be used in exhibits and for educational purposes by Rocky Mountain National Park and Rocky Mountain Conservancy for their products or programs.

A panel of professionals from diverse research and education disciplines will choose four finalists, which will then be narrowed down to one scholar. The selection is based on merit, the Statement of Purpose, and appropriateness to a national park residency.

Goals:

The goal of the program is to create a unique opportunity to work in/near Rocky Mountain National Park for scholars and scientific experts, to provide an immersive experience, and to share unique research with our collective audience and Park visitors.

Dates:

One scholar will be selected annually, and housing will be provided by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, between June 1 and October 1.

Compensation:

Scholar-in-Residence Program

- Housing: Housing is provided at a home/duplex located 5 miles from the Beaver Meadows entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. It is bordering RMNP, and scholars will have hiking access to the park from their lodging. 4x4 or AWD transportation recommended.
- Food: Food is not included in this program.
- Stipend: $ 5,000. The stipend will be paid every 2 weeks in $ 1,000 allotments.

Open to:

Scholars may include postdoctoral or postgrad students, professors, educational administrators, writers/authors. Research topics can vary but could include local biotic systems, resource management, and ideally focus on the RMNP research priorities. The topic of research must align with the mission and values of Rocky Mountain Conservancy and the National Park Service/RMNP.

Proposal Submission and Review Process

Submit your research proposal application to Lisa Cowart Baron, CDRLC Research Coordinator, via email at lisa_baron@nps.gov with the subject '2023 Scholar in Residence Proposal'. Proposals are due annually before April 15th.

Format for Scholar in Residence Proposal: Research proposal applications should include the following sections:

1) Cover letter
2) Introduction
   a. Applicant Information
3) Overview
   a. Title of research proposal
   b. Dates of research proposal
   c. Statement of issue
   d. Scope of study
   e. Intended use of results
4) Objectives/Hypotheses to be tested
5) Methods
   a. Description of the study area
   b. Procedures
   c. Collections
   d. Analysis
6) Products
7) References
8) Resume

Projects will be reviewed and ranked by CDRLC and RMC staff. Staff may follow up with applicants with additional questions during the evaluation period.

(Finalized 2/28/23)