

Requesting Funding for Your Earthwatch Expedition

Some funders have specific proposal requests; others may only require a one- or two-page letter. Here are a few paragraphs that may help you get started on a short proposal. Feel free to modify them to suit your specific request. Don't forget to include ALL your contact information.

I am writing to request (*amount requested*) in funding for my participation as a research assistant to leading scientists on an Earthwatch research expedition. Earthwatch engages people worldwide in scientific research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. Educating the next generation about conservation is a critical step toward long-term environmental sustainability. To accomplish this mission, Earthwatch supports field research that places volunteers in the field with scientists to gather data necessary for making decisions that impact the sustainability of the world's natural and cultural environments. {*You can add specific information about a project from the detailed project briefing located on the Earthwatch website. Each briefing contains logistical, scientific and reference information.*} (www.earthwatch.org).

The (*name of funder*) funds will directly support the scientist's field grant and my travel to and from the research site, thereby contributing to my own professional development. I will gain new skills and knowledge of the problems that face conservationists. I will bring this new knowledge to bear in my work, helping others understand critical issues facing our environment and empowering them to take action by applying this new knowledge within their own communities.

Also incorporate a few sentences that address:

- How will your community benefit from your experience?
- What do you most hope to learn?
- What other funding do you already have? (Matching)
- How will you share this experience when you return?

You should always send out multiple requests for funding and try to apply early. Some grants may be large enough to enable you to purchase materials for the classroom that you can use upon your return. Here is a sample budget you can modify for your proposal:

Sample Budget

Scientists share of costs	average	\$1,800
Travel costs to and from the site (domestic \$ 500)	International	\$1,000
Insurance		\$ 50
Field equipment (Optional)		
Binoculars		\$35.00
Compass		\$15.00
Classroom Research Equipment (optional)		
Clip boards		\$30.00
Mapping paper		\$10.00
Measuring tapes		<u>\$15.00</u>
Total Costs		\$2,955
Matching support (from yourself or Earthwatch or...)		(\$1000)
Total Request from (organizations name)		\$1955