|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| doiseal | **United States Department of the Interior**  **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  **Saguaro National Park**  **3693 South Old Spanish Trail**  **Tucson AZ 85730** | AH_small_shaded_4C_pc |
| IN REPLY REFER TO: |  |  |

**Invasive Species Science Scholarship – Saguaro National Park**

Saguaro National Park is seeking applications for college and high school students for two $2,000 scholarships to study invasive species. Thanks to a generous donation from the Paul and Deane Shatz Invasive Species Research Fund, we are offering the scholarships to current students in Pima County for research projects focused on conservation of native Sonoran Desert plants.

This year’s theme is improving methods to detect, monitor, and/or remove invasive plants that threaten the Saguaro cactus, such as buffelgrass and stinknet. Strong applications should show an understanding of this issue and propose a creative research project that will help the park address the issue. Examples include research on:

1) Understanding how invasive species regenerate or propagate, such as a seed viability study;

2) Methods for most efficiently removing invasives (such as innovative practices for disposal)

3) Technology using drones, AI, or GIS to combat desert invasive species

4) Other topics such as social science to identify people most likely to volunteer their time and energy in combating invasive species.

To apply, send a cover letter and a 3-5 page proposal that provides background on the problem and proposes a science project to address it. Proposals should be structured to include: 1) Purpose; 2) Background with citations; 3) Methods, including challenges and limitations; and 4) Research objectives including specific end products.

Deadline for proposals is Monday, March 31, 2025. Please send completed applications and address questions to [SAGU\_invasive@nps.gov](mailto:SAGU_invasive@nps.gov). Recipients will be notified by April 11, 2025. If selected, recipients will receive $500 up front, then receive an additional $1,500 upon completion and publication of the project, which is due August 1, 2025.

Additional notes: Research projects do not have to take place at Saguaro National Park. Any project that proposes field research within Saguaro National Park must be approved by the park. Park staff will provide limited support and feedback throughout the project, and the student shall meet with park staff at least twice.

To earn the $1,500, the students shall submit a final report for publication. An important goal of all scientific studies is to share the results with the public and other scientists. The publication should be illustrated with graphs, figures, and photos. It can be published in a scientific journal, presented to a scientific conference or meeting with a written Abstract, or made available to the public in a print or on-line forum that can reach a wider audience.