



Stipends Available for Individuals to Advance the Nature: Accessible for All Campaign

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is providing stipends of up to \$4,000 each to individuals who will carry out projects to advance the Nature: Accessible for All Campaign. The stipends are expected to fund approximately of 150 hours of effort.

We are inviting individuals to apply for a stipend using the process below. Individuals already participating in the Campaign and those not yet involved are both eligible to apply. Individuals who receive a stipend for one year will be eligible to apply for a second year stipend. For an exceptional project, PPA will consider a larger stipend request. PPA expects to award a total of approximately \$80,000 in stipends.

The Nature: Accessible for All Campaign

This campaign is a collaborative effort by individuals, public agencies and nonprofits to ensure that people with disabilities, their families and allies can and do enjoy New Jersey's extraordinary natural places. We aim to increase the public's awareness that accessible nature trails and sites exist and are valuable to the quality of life; to improve the accessibility of trails and natural sites; and to provide reliable information about these facilities so people can plan successful expeditions into our natural areas.

It is a core value of the campaign that voices from the disability community drive the design and implementation of the campaign's strategies and activities. The campaign's Action Plan and Statement of First Principles are attached below.

Purpose of the Stipends and Eligible Activities

The stipends are intended to support individuals while they undertake activities that advance the mission of the Campaign described above. We are looking for applicants to propose activities they believe are worthwhile and which they are equipped by experience or expertise to carry out.

We understand that an individual may want or need non-financial support from us or others to make a great project succeed. So we invite applicants to tell us whether there is support we can provide or help obtain for the project. (Examples could be use of a tablet to record information or images, access to an ASL interpreter, or help in connecting with a key person or agency.)

The following are examples of possible activities that would support the Campaign, but this list is not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive:

- Serve as an ambassador by reaching out to other individuals to engage them in the Campaign.
- Do presentations about nature and accessibility, and this campaign, for the public.
- Train staff and volunteers who lead field trips for public parks agencies and nonprofits.
- Create and lead inclusive field trips.
- Evaluate trails and other nature facilities for inclusion in the accessnaturenj.org map using an evaluation process PPA has developed, and/or testing and providing ideas for improving or expanding the evaluation process.
- Advocate with land managers to carry out improvements to trails and other facilities to improve accessibility.
- Create video, photography and narratives that promote inclusive nature recreation and/or understanding of the challenges people with disabilities and their allies face in enjoying natural places.

Eligible Individuals

Any individual is eligible to apply for a stipend.

Requirements for Recipients

Stipend recipients will be required to agree to a standard agreement with PPA that sets out the mutual responsibilities of the recipient and PPA. The recipients will be independent contractors to PPA for the funded effort. Stipends will be provided in two equal payments, one upon signing the agreement and one at the completion of the project, unless there is a specific need for a different payment schedule.

We understand that these are modest stipends, and we do not want to impose unreasonable burdens on recipients. The key responsibilities of recipients will be:

1. Carry out the activities proposed for funding within a term of one year from receipt of the funds, unless a different time period is agreed.
2. Discuss with PPA ways to invite and involve other campaign participants in support of the effort.
3. Participate in at least three online meetings of the Access Nature Forum. Information on the Forum can be found at <https://pinelandsalliance.org/the-pinelands-is-for-everyone/access-nature-forum/>.

4. Participate in at least three meetings of the Steering Committee or a Working Group of the campaign, which all meet via Zoom. Working Groups currently are: Regulatory Reforms; Inclusive Nature-Based Programming; Document and Evaluate Facilities, Trails and Scenic Sites; and Engagement and Communications.
5. Document your activities in narrative, images and/or video.
6. Provide a summary quarterly email status report to PPA on your efforts.
7. Provide a final email report at the end of the year, including information and images that document the project.

Evaluation of Proposals

PPA, in consultation with the Campaign Steering Committee, will evaluate proposals on a rolling basis using these criteria:

1. Does the proposed project advance the goals of the Campaign as set out above and in the Action Plan? This is required.
2. Does the proposed project embody the values set out in the Core Principles of the Campaign, including particularly the inclusion of people with disabilities in the project? This is required.
3. Does the applicant show the project is doable? This is required.
4. Does the applicant propose to collaborate with others? This is a positive.
5. Will the project address multiple forms of disability? This is a positive.
6. If the project requires permission of a landowner (such as for a trail improvement), does the applicant have that permission? This is required, if relevant.

Application Due Date

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis through May 31, 2025, or until available stipends are all distributed.

How To Apply

Send Sean Kane Holland at PPA an email, Word or Acrobat document that answers the following questions. Sean's email address is sean@pinelandsalliance.org. Brevity is a virtue here, and we can follow up with any questions we may have.

1. Your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.
2. Title of the project, if you have one.
3. Description of your interest and experience relevant to this nature and inclusion campaign (about 250 words or shorter).

4. Description of the activity proposed (about 250 words or shorter).
5. Explanation of any non-financial support you may want or need for this project. (about 250 words or shorter).
6. Statement of what the activity aims to accomplish to make nature accessible for people with disabilities, and whether the project requires expenses the stipend needs to cover (about 250 words or shorter).
7. Explanation of how you plan to measure and document your progress (about 250 words or shorter).
8. Attach a resume and any other relevant documents or images that you think will be helpful to us in understanding your project and your interest in this Campaign.

Please direct any questions to Sean at the email address above.