

Announcing the Glacier National Park Conservancy – Jerry O’Neal Research Fellowship

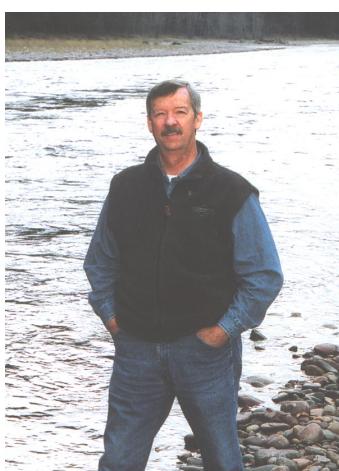
2026 Call— Application deadline March 18, 2026

Applications are now being accepted for Glacier National Park Conservancy – Jerry O’Neal Research Fellowship. Applicants may request up to \$7,500 to support student research projects. Thanks to generous support from donors to the Glacier National Park Conservancy, the Jerry O’Neal NPS Student Fellowship has merged to become the Glacier National Park Conservancy – Jerry O’Neal Research Fellowship.

Eligibility: Graduate students (a student who has been accepted into, but not yet started their grad program may apply only if a support letter from a faculty advisor is provided stating that the student has been accepted into a graduate program under their supervision) or superior upper division undergraduate students (3.5 GPA or above) in fields applicable to understanding and management of Glacier National Park. **The fellowship is available to students at universities in the CESU Network.**

The Fellowship was originally established in memoriam of Jerry O’Neal, a scientist, poet, and writer. He had a deep love of nature and was an outspoken proponent for the need to have sound science to support resource management decisions. Jerry began his nearly 30 years of public service as an entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service and was the regional toxicologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta. He joined the National Park Service in 1998 as chief of science and

resources management at Mammoth Cave National Park and later served as chief of the resource management program for 64 parks in the Southeast. He served as Glacier National Park’s deputy superintendent from 2002-2004 where he was actively engaged in a range of environmental management projects and was a key park official during the wildfires of 2003.



Jerry grew up in a poor family from the south and was the first in his family to attend college. Education cultivated his commitment to preserving the natural world. In keeping with his model of learning as a way of improving one’s life situation and fostering environmental stewardship, the fellowship aims to provide educational assistance for students seeking to understand natural and cultural resource issues and how these intersect with human values.

Special consideration will be given to proposals that address the following:

- 1) natural resource issues such as aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, fire ecology, invasive plants, and climate change
- 2) cultural resource issues, such as history and architectural studies, cultural landscape reports, ethnographic research and archeology.
- 3) social science that informs resource management about a natural or cultural topic and/or that addresses visitor impacts to park resources.



Glacier National Park Conservancy – Jerry O’Neal Research Fellowship Application Procedure

Applications for 2026 must be submitted electronically by March 18, 2026.

All applications must include:

- 2-page resume (with current contact information; name of principal investigator/faculty advisor, program, and institution)
- Copies of all college transcripts
- Project proposal (15 pp. maximum) including statement of need; objectives; study area; methods and relevant literature summary; proposed timeline; relevance to resource conservation in Glacier and anticipated research and educational product(s) (e.g., thesis, publication(s), report to park, presentation to park managers, CD, public lecture)
- Project budget including salary; equipment; supplies; travel; laboratory analyses; and any other budget categories. Include written justification for each budget item and state any other funding sources or matching funds available, if any
- List of cited references
- Additional support requested from the park, if any (e.g., housing and dates needed, transportation, assistance with equipment or park access)
- Statement(s) of support (email messages ok) from appropriate park personnel addressing the relevance of the research to park management

Applications will be judged on the relevance, technical soundness, and feasibility of the proposed study; qualifications of the student; and clarity and completeness of the application. Proposals may cover a one-time survey or project or a clearly defined portion of an existing research project. Projects may be completed in one or more field season(s). Studies may occur in one or more of the parks’ ecosystems and adjoining lands. Projects must comply with appropriate agency regulations and permits (separately administered from this fellowship). One or more Fellowships in amounts up to \$7,500 will be awarded in 2026 subject to funding availability. Students may not receive a second award in a subsequent year for the same project. Students are expected to provide a final project report and copies of any publications as a result of the research. In addition, they will prepare a selection of project photos and a one-page, illustrated project summary, suitable for the general public and an additional educational product to facilitate information transfer beyond the scientific audience (e.g. a presentation to site managers, a public seminar, or non-technical article).

Send application electronically to:
lisa.gerloff@umontana.edu

*In subject line, please include GNPC-O’Neal
Research Fellowship along with your last name.*

For more information contact:

*Lisa Gerloff, Executive Director, RM-CESU,
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or

*Phil Wilson, Chief, Division of Science and
Resources Management, Glacier National Park,
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