

National Speleological Foundation
Sources of Cave- and Karst-Related Grants and Fellowships

November 8, 2013

National Speleological Foundation, Inc., www.speleofoundation.org/Grants.html

The NSF's Vehslage Grant program supports speleological research and exploration, cave and karst resource conservation, education about and public awareness of caves and karst, and significant property acquisitions. Although there are no formal limits on the amount awarded, the Foundation typically budgets up to about \$10,000 in grants annually. The program was funded largely by a bequest from the estate of Gene Vehslage, who was an NSF trustee and a former president of the National Speleological Society.

National Speleological Society, www.caves.org/grants/index.shtml

The NSS offers grants supporting

- cave/karst conservation research and education projects
- cave acquisition
- cave/karst-related educational programs
- NSS members in international cave exploration and survey projects
- group cave exploration in the U.S. (Sara Corrie Memorial grants)
- cave-related thesis research (Ralph Stone Graduate Fellowship grants)
- research in cave-related branches of study
- secondary and post-secondary educatory grants
- NSS preserves
- internationals speleological participation

Cave Research Foundation, www.cave-research.org/grants.php

Each academic year, the Cave Research Foundation accepts proposals for graduate student research in cave and karst studies. Proposals may be in any field of the earth, natural, or social, sciences as long as the research addresses topics related to caves or karst. The Foundation may award up to \$10,000 annually, distributed among one or more grant recipients. Typically, awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. The truly exceptional proposal, which involves two or more scientific disciplines, may receive a Thomas C. Kane Memorial Award and up to an additional \$2,000 in grant support. Students must be enrolled in a degree-granting institution. Competition is open to U.S. and international institutions, but application materials must be in English. Research at either the Master's or Ph.D. level is eligible.

Cave Conservancy Foundation, www.caveconservancyfoundation.org/

CCF awards undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. fellowships for the study of caves and karst in any field, including but not limited to archeology, biology, engineering, geography, geology, and social sciences will be considered. The research can involve any cave and karst areas, including those outside the United States. Applicants must be full-time graduate or undergraduate students at a U.S. college or university.

Karst Waters Institute, www.karstwaters.org/scholarship/index.php

To stimulate the development of new, energetic, motivated, and creative karst scientists, and to remember the person of Bill Wilson and his dedication to karst science, the scholarship has been established in his memory. The value of the scholarship as a one-time award is \$1,000.

Cleveland Grotto of the NSS, www.clevelandgrotto.org/ClevelandGrotto/Science_Fund.html

The money is available to individuals and groups to support valid cave research, cave surveyor projects and cave related science efforts.

The Robertson Association, www.otr.org

TRA is dedicated to cave research, conservation, and education. The board of directors has adopted a policy of awarding 50% of the net proceeds from its annual reunion (OTR) to support appropriate cave-related activities by non-profit groups.

Dogwood City Grotto, www.dogwoodcitygrotto.org/template.asp?id=9

Dogwood City Grotto donates a large portion of the net profit from the TAG Fall Cave-In to support appropriate cave-related activities by non-profit groups. In the past, these grants have funded everything from cave gating projects to archaeological and biological studies, as well as cave rescue seminars, conservancies, and expeditions as far away as China or as close as Pigeon Mountain.

Virginia Region of the NSS, www.varegion.org/var/theVar/grants.shtml

Virginia Region grant funds must be used for cave conservation, cave preservation, cave and karst education, or landowner relations within the Region and be of benefit to the Region.