



## Mountain Research Mini-Grant Program 2006 Application Instructions

Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) is a non-profit mountain research and education institution and high-altitude field station with headquarters in Silverton, Colorado and offices at Fort Lewis College in nearby Durango. MSI's mission is to enhance understanding and sustainable use of the San Juan Mountains and its communities through research and education. Please see [www.mountainstudies.org](http://www.mountainstudies.org) for more information.

MSI is offering mini-grants for students and postdoctoral associates to conduct studies in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, USA. Research may be in the physical, biological, or social sciences or be interdisciplinary. Each applicant must have an advisor who agrees to provide guidance on the project.

### Other Requirements:

- Applicant must be a student at an accredited college or university or have graduated from such an institution within the past two years (recent undergraduate or master's students) or five years (postdoctoral associates).
- Research must have a major component focused on the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, USA and include field work in the San Juan Mountains.
- Research must be related to at least one of the five mountain studies themes that compose MSI's "San Juan Mountain Futures" research program:
  - 1) Communities in Transition: Issues affecting mountain communities in transition from resource extraction to tourism and recreation- based economies and cultures (land use change; community planning; ecological, economic, social, and/or cultural conflicts and challenges).
  - 2) Climate Variability and Change: Studies of past, present, and future climate; effects of climate change on environment and/or society.
  - 3) Air Quality: Studies of air quality and effect of pollutants on ecosystems and human health.
  - 4) Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Studies of ecological communities, spatial and temporal patterns of biodiversity, environmental controls on biodiversity, links between biodiversity and ecosystem services, value of biodiversity to society.
  - 5) Water for Ecosystems and People: Controls on water quantity and quality, effects of drought on ecosystems and people, other ecological or societal issues associated with water quantity and quality.

**Funding:** Up to \$2,500 per proposal with a minimum total available of at least \$5,000; and maximum possible award of \$10,000. \$10,000 was awarded in 2005.

**Time span of projects:** One-year.

Successful applicants are required to submit a project report and give an oral or poster presentation by the end of the one-year award period.

Selection will be based on the intellectual merit of the proposed study, the applicant's ability to complete the project, and the project's alignment with MSI's research program themes. Postdoctoral applications also will be judged on the potential for results to lead

to a more extensive research effort in the San Juan Mountains. Proposals that leverage funds from other grants, scholarships, or departmental contributions are preferred but not required. Excellent proposals from applicants with no other support certainly will be considered.

**To apply:**

Submit a proposal (see below), curriculum vitae, and 2 letters of recommendation (including one from the proposed advisor that states he or she supports the project and will serve as advisor to the applicant). In addition, undergraduates need to submit undergraduate transcripts and graduate students and postdocs are required to submit graduate transcripts. Unofficial copies are acceptable, but official copies will be required if the applicant is selected.

The proposal should include the following parts, but not exceed 5 pages (font 12 with one-inch margins). Proposals longer than 5 pages will not be considered.

1. Title page (see form below)
2. Introduction (Description of problem or question, objective of project, and background information from the literature).
3. Methods
4. Literature Cited
5. Schedule of work
6. Budget

MSI encourages the use of our Avon Hotel field station in Silverton, which offers dorm-style lodging, common and individual work space, a community kitchen, wireless internet, and a classroom. However, applicants need to budget \$300 per month or \$15 per day from the funds requested for Avon lodging. Summer field lab facilities are available at \$25/week.

Example budget categories:

Applicant salary, lodging, travel, equipment, supplies, sample analyses, and matching funding or in-kind services.

Categories that will not be funded: indirect costs or overhead expenses, faculty salary.

**Submit application to MSI's Director of Research and Education:**

Send hard copy of all materials to:

Dr. Koren Nydick

Mountain Studies Institute

Department of Geosciences

Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive

Durango, CO 81301

Email cover page and proposal to [koren@mountainstudies.org](mailto:koren@mountainstudies.org).

**Questions?**

Call 970-247-7071 or email above.

**TITLE PAGE: MSI 2006 Mini-Grant Research Program** (not to exceed 1 page)

**Applicant - Circle:** Undergraduate / Recent Undergrad / Graduate Student  
/ Recent Masters Graduate / Postdoctoral

Name:	Phone #:
Address:	Email:
	Institution:
	Department/Degree/Year:
	G.P.A.:

Recent graduates: Include Institution, Degree, and GPA from most recent degree.

**Advisor**

Name:	Phone #:
Address:	Email:
	Institution:
	Department:

**Project Title**

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**Project Abstract** (entire title page must fit on one page, with font at least 10 point).

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MSI will assist when possible, but the applicant is responsible for obtaining all required permissions or permits for the proposed activity.

**Applicant Signature**

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Date

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**Advisor Signature**

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Date

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