



Colorado Plateau Intertribal Travel, Learning and Network Grants: Guidelines and Instructions

Grand Canyon Trust – Mission

The mission of the Grand Canyon Trust is to protect and restore the Colorado Plateau — its spectacular landscapes, flowing rivers, clean air, diversity of plants and animals, and areas of beauty and solitude.

Colorado Plateau Intertribal Conversations

In a bold and pioneering move among its peers of larger conservation organizations, the Grand Canyon Trust has initiated a Native America Program that gives native peoples a voice and a role in the protection of the Colorado Plateau. This is achieved by facilitating and encouraging dialogue among the eleven Native American tribes that have resided across this landscape for thousands of years, and who now control the future of over one-third of the Colorado Plateau totaling more than 30,000 square miles.

The Trust's Native America Program has facilitated seven successful Intertribal Gatherings and innumerable supportive meetings over the past four years. These Gatherings have prioritized Native American objectives within four overarching themes: 1) strengthening networks, resources, and tools for the long-term protection of sacred sites; 2) strengthening the sacred relationship of Native peoples with water; 3) supporting health through the revitalization of traditional farming and local food systems to improve ties to the land; and 4) preserving language and cultural traditions through elders' stories, songs, and teachings that perpetuate land protection ethics.

The members of the Gatherings are masters of their trades: farmers, hunters, dancers, runners, ecologists, storytellers, all of whom have honorably contributed to their communities in great ways and are highly respected for what they do and how they carry themselves.

Project Purpose

The purpose of these travel funds is to facilitate apprenticeships between students and teachers in specific areas that relate to the goals of the Intertribal Gatherings. Tribes build their knowledge systems of sustainable living and cultures by meeting with one another. The Grand Canyon Trust seeks to support such intertribal sharing around climate change adaptation techniques, farming, agricultural systems, and plant knowledge systems, including preserving time-tested farming systems, vital ecology, and life-giving watersheds.



Application Process

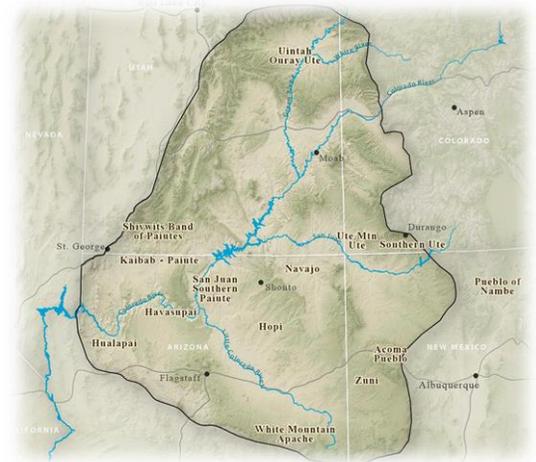
A Grand Canyon Trust Travel Grant ranges from \$250-\$500 per person per trip. Only one person from any given organization will be funded for each trip. Some exceptions may be made for multiple people to go on a trip together if the plans are extremely economical. We want to allow multiple organizations to benefit from this grant in order to spread the knowledge and create a larger network between tribes.

This grant has a rolling application process, meaning there is no one specific due date. However, the grant period for accepting applications will end on August 1, 2015. All travel opportunities must occur before September 30, 2015. There may be certain situations where applicants require physical and/or health accommodations; in this case, additional funds may be awarded if necessary to assist the applicant

Travel grant applications must be submitted by the 1st of the month prior to the first date of travel. If you plan on beginning your travels on May 1st, you need to have your application and required documents submitted before April 1st by 11:59pm. If you plan to travel by plane you will need to submit your application two (2) months prior to your first date of travel, by the 1st of that month

This grant is for tribal members that reside on or near the Colorado Plateau region, as pictured here, to learn from tribal leaders within the Colorado Plateau or across North America.

All awards will be granted on a case-by-case basis, because of the diversity of options for each grant.



Application Procedures

Prior to submitting an application, the applicant is required to conduct research and locate the instructor they would like to work with, based on their area of expertise. Then they will need to contact the instructor and the host community and/or community organization and ask permission to visit and stay in their community. Once permission is obtained, the applicant and host community must agree on appropriate/prime dates to conduct your apprenticeship and initiate lodging options. Should the applicant be accepted as an apprentice, applicants will also need to initiate conversations with the instructor and host family in order to properly prepare for their stay.

Before returning to your home community, you will be required to confirm your full and proper acquisition of the knowledge that has been shared with you. The form of confirmation will be left up to the discretion of your instructor. For example, you may be asked to share the information with another community member in their presence and with their guidance. Also, be certain to ask and learn about



the ways in which this information needs to be shared, whom it may be shared with and when the information can be shared. Some topics of study may be more delicate than others as far as protocol; for example many teachings can only be shared over the winter months, so you will also need to ask these questions prior to traveling and specify that you confirmed that they will be appropriate to learn during your planned travel time.

In addition, in certain cases depending on the topic you are requesting to study, you may require multiple visits to learn from your instructor. Also in certain situations, a visit from the instructor to your community may be needed in order to implement the teachings appropriately. For example, if you are learning to prepare fields for farming, you may need assistance from your instructor when it comes to implementation in your own community. If additional visits are needed, you will need to apply for another grant when the time comes.

Potential Topics

Examples of primary topics to study...

- How to maximize water in your fields
- How to effectively layout fields for farming
- Installing water catchments
- Invasive species removal
- Learn the traditions stories, ceremonies, songs, dances and prayers for the land, water, planting and harvest times, etc.
- Revitalizing ancient cultural networks and trade relationships
- Learning ecologically respectful methods to manage sheep
- Watershed restoration techniques
- Sloping techniques
- Irrigation techniques
- Monitoring ecology

Example of secondary topics to study...

- How to harvest seeds and keep seeds for storage
- Permaculture techniques
- Learn about indigenous foods that grow naturally in the environment, when and how to harvest and prepare them
- Learn how to make traditional tools for farming
- Learn how to make pottery and/or baskets for carrying water and keeping seeds
- Proper protocols for hunting
- Greenhouse setup, upkeep, and design
- Efficient composting system



Applicants will be selected based on their preparation and efforts to make the trip as economically conscious as possible, their topic of choice and the topic's level of focus on climate change mitigation efforts. We also want to ensure that there will be a diverse representation of tribes, regions and topics of knowledge represented throughout our group of grantees.

Once someone is selected as a grantee they will receive a grant for the amount approved for their travels.

Applicant Criteria

Applicants must...

1. Minimally have a basic knowledge on the topic they are requesting to study, especially when it comes to farming. The applicant may also be required to have a plot of land they are currently or can be working with, which may be their own or through an organization they are currently working with.
2. Be currently involved in an activity/project in relation to the topic they wish to study. Therefore this opportunity will assist the applicant in enhancing the work they are currently involved in, rather than initiate the work for them.
3. If the applicant is less than eighteen (18) years of age, they must have permission granted by a parent or guardian, along with an agreement from the parent or guardian to assist the applicant with travel planning and needs (for example, by providing transportation).

Required Application Materials

1. Application
2. A copy of your Certificate of Indian Blood
3. A copy of your Driver's License and/or Identification
4. Application Essay (2-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt. font). **For elders and cultural leaders this step and the follow up can be done over a phone conversation.**

Application Essay Guidelines

1. Brief personal background
2. Detailed description of the requested topic of study
3. Personal experience within that field of study
4. Involvement with activities/projects/initiatives within that field of study
5. Who would you like to learn from and why?



6. What community are they from? And, what knowledge can they provide that is relevant to your area of interest?
7. Provide a detailed description of your travel plans and accommodations.
8. Specify whether or not this information can be shared during the time of your visit after confirming with your desired instructor.
9. Provide a detailed budget plan. If you are going to be staying with a host family please be prepared to provide them monetary assistance, for example \$30.00 per day to compensate for additional grocery and electricity costs.
10. Provide a thoroughly detailed plan and outline for how you plan to share the information you are requesting to learn, with you community upon your return.

Awards and Denials

The Colorado Plateau Intertribal Travel, Learning, and Network Project Coordinator shall award or deny applicants, but we will do our best to work with you.

- i. The Project Coordinator shall screen all applicants and determine which applicants meet all the requirements for the Travel Grant.
- ii. The Project Coordinator shall interview applicants who are considered potential candidates for the Travel Grant.
- iii. The Project Coordinator shall notify applicants of award in writing within ten (10) working days after the determination has been made.
- iv. The Project Coordinator shall notify applicants who were denied in writing within ten (10) working days after the determination has been made. The denial letter shall contain at least the following:
 1. A brief statement of basis for the denial.
 2. Appeal process and further details
 3. If initially denied for the grant, the Project Coordinator may request more details in order to transfer a denial to an approval; should this be necessary, the applicant's application will most likely be delayed one month into the next cycle of awards.

Follow-up Process

1. The apprentice will be required to write a detailed reflection on their travels and apprenticeship experience, as well as reflections on workshop presentations. This reflection has to be turned in to the Project Coordinator within one (1) calendar week after your final workshop.
2. The Project Coordinator shall conduct a follow-up interview with the apprentice for the Travel Grant. After receiving the reflection, the follow-up interview will be scheduled within one (1) calendar week.



Code of Conduct

It is very important to the Gathering members to ensure cultural appropriateness and respect in our programs. By applying for a GCT travel grant the applicant thereby agrees to...

1. Carry oneself in a respectful manner, appropriate dress and language etc.
 - a. Appropriate dress – when working in the field; Work boots, ventilated durable work pants, light colored long sleeve work shirt, and a good hat. Always have a pair of good work gloves with you.
 - i. Other items for working in the field; Sunglasses, extra pair of durable shorts, bandana, multi-tool/knife, large water bottle, and snacks. Use necessary items for preventative measures, including but not limited to Sunblock, first aid kit, jacket/rain gear and personal medications.
 - ii. There are many items of clothing or personal apparel that are not appropriate while working in the fields (not limited to the items listed here). You may ask your host family and instructor for further details. No sneakers, no cleavage, do not reveal skin, no open toed shoes, remove jewelry, keep hair pulled back, no electronic devices while working, no torn clothing, etc.
 - b. Appropriate dress – when in the Host Home; below is a list of clothing guidelines.
 - i. No open toed shoes; pants/shorts no higher than above the knee; skirts must be below the knee; no torn or tattered clothing; t-shirts must be respectful without any offensive logos; images, paraphernalia, or phrases (this includes imagery that promote or expresses death, skulls, gang related, vulgar terms, sexual connotations, drug, marijuana, alcohol, and animals that may be taboo to your host family – i.e. snake print, owls, coyotes, wolves etc.,). We suggest t-shirts be as simple as possible, and also comfortable; please no tight fitting or baggy clothing. We want you to be comfortable as possible; however, we expect you to be respectful, presentable, and above all else, a representative for your family, community, the Grand Canyon Trust and your nation.
 - ii. Please remove facial jewelry; however, traditional cultural piercings are acceptable.
2. Take the initiative to research and obtain basic knowledge as a foundation for your travels.
 - a. Familiarize yourself with cultural sensitivity protocols of your hosting tribe, for example in most places you will need to refrain from whistling, clapping and pointing.
 - b. Study and explore the community of your destination



- c. Research the history of your hosting family's nation
 - d. Have a basic understanding of terminology used in your area of study.
3. This experience is for cultural sharing, bonding and an exchange of knowledge. Do not force your personal beliefs upon your instructor, Host Family or Host community. We understand that each Nation has their own cultural beliefs systems; this experience will give you the necessary history to gain a deeper understanding of both your cultural beliefs and your host's beliefs.
 - a. Listen and pay attention and then speak.
 - b. Do not force any personal ideology upon your hosts.
 - c. Follow the traditional protocol of your hosting nation unless it conflicts with your own; be respectful and communicate your constrictions.
4. While under the direction of instructor and host, you are expected to follow and honor the cultural protocol of your host nation, as long as they do not directly contrast and conflict with your nation's cultural protocol. It is respectful to notify your instructor and host describing briefly your hesitations and possible conflicts so that you may protect yourself and avoid insulting your hosting nation's cultural protocols.
5. Adjust your daily life routines and your expectations to immerse yourself through assisting your instructor and host. You are there to immerse yourself in the culture rather than be catered to. Assist in every way possible within your physical and cultural limitations. Wake up early and take initiative to help you instructor and host family; do not wait to be asked; take the initiative; be vigilant; notice what needs to be done, and ask if you can help with it. If so, then do so.
6. Be self-sufficient; come prepared, and pack lightly. Bring items you need, however, be conscious of electronics and your use of these items. Ask permission before recording, taking pictures, filming, and sharing/posting information via social media.
7. Treat your instructor, host and host community with the utmost respect.
 - a. Be polite
 - b. Do not interrupt them when they are speaking; always wait a few moments after someone has finished speaking to speak yourself.
 - c. Always ask before helping oneself to anything.
 - d. Do not sleep in or stay up too late.
 - e. Try to help out as much as you can.
 - f. Before leaving for the day, always let your host know before leaving the house, etc.



8. Bring gifts/offerings for your instructor and host family to respectfully ask them to host and share their knowledge with you. This will strengthen new bonds through a sacred exchange that is honorable, for example...
 - a. Food
 - b. Tobacco – natural, mixed natural or pipe tobacco with fixings.
 - c. Other culturally significant items from your community (if you chose to bring something like this, be prepared to provide the background and teachings i.e. handling and storage on those items so that they may be properly respected).

These reflections will assist GCT in securing funding for future travels for the program and also yourself. It is highly recommended you write your notes, presentation bullets and most importantly your experience reflections in a notebook. This will help assist you in forming your reflection.

Please submit your application to the Project Coordinator, Teahonna James via email or at the Grand Canyon Trust mailing address below.

Be sure to read the application requirements thoroughly. All of the application materials must be included in order for your application to be considered complete. This will help to expedite the application process.

Please contact Teahonna James with any questions or concerns at any time.



**GRAND CANYON
TRUST**



**COLORADO PLATEAU
INTERTRIBAL CONVERSATIONS**

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