

**The Tennessee Cave Survey**

**Lee White Memorial Grant**

**Request for Proposals**

The Tennessee Cave Survey (TCS) is committed to supporting the discovery, exploration, survey, mapping, and conservation of Tennessee caves. As such, we are pleased to announce the availability of funding for projects that support and expand cave research and conservation efforts in Tennessee. This opportunity is available to all state and federal personnel, non-governmental organizations, universities, and private or independent researchers.

**Award Information**

Grants of up to $1000 are available for high priority Tennessee cave research and conservation projects. Awards are biannual and proposals will be accepted and awarded up to twice per year. Proposals exceeding $1000 may be considered upon special request. Urgent funds requests can be made anytime for emergency cave protection efforts or temporally limited, but urgent opportunities.

Proposals will be accepted until March 1 for the spring grant cycle, and until September 1 for the fall grant cycle, each year. Grant recipients will be notified at or before the TCS spring and fall meetings for the spring and fall grant cycles, respectively. These meetings usually occur in April and late September/early October.

**Grant Priorities**

Through this request for proposals, The TCS will support projects that expand cave research and conservation efforts in Tennessee including but not limited to the following actions:

1. Exploration and mapping of new caves or documenting/expanding knowledge of cave science and systems
2. Testing and/or development of new technologies or techniques associated with cave exploration and mapping
3. Testing and/or development of new platforms or technologies to manage cave data
4. Conservation and protection of caves and/or significant cave resources
5. Research to better understand Tennessee cave and karst resources and processes
6. Other projects consistent with the stated mission and goals of the TCS (see <http://subworks.com/TCS>)

**Applicant Requirements**

Failure to comply with the following requirements will preclude proposals from consideration and eligibility. Projects must be completed within one year of notification of funding unless otherwise agreed upon. Prior to the submission of a proposal, all applicants must contact all cooperating partners, including landowners, state agency personnel, resource managers, etc. to discuss the proposed project and ensure that the work can be conducted if funded. Affirmation of support of all partners must be provided. The application must identify any state, federal, and/or landowner support or permission that will be required to conduct field work, collect data, or interpret results. All participants of funded projects must procure all necessary state, federal, and local permits, as well as landowner permission, prior to project initiation. All grant recipients are subject to having their funds revoked if the TCS determines that there has been a misuse of grant funds; if the grantee is a TCS member, they shall be subject to expulsion from the TCS. Principal grantee, or designated grant award project partner, must report project outcomes to the TCS in the form of a report, presentation at a biannual TCS meeting, and article in the TCS annual publication, The Tennessee Caver.

Proposals must include the following sections, not to exceed three pages in length:

1. **Executive summary:** A very brief and basic overview of the project that outlines overall objectives, impacts, budget, etc.
2. **Grant proposal narrative:** The detail in this section should be as comprehensive or as simple as the project itself. More complex projects with a diversity of partners and funders may include a traditional introduction, methods, results, etc., while a simple grant request may only need a few lines to detail project value and justification.
3. **Anticipated Results and Impact:** A brief statement outlining potential outcomes based on the successful implementation of your project.
4. **Timetable:** Provide an estimated timeline for the overall project (max 1 year unless otherwise requested)
5. **Grantee Qualifications Statement:** a very brief statement detailing the qualifications or experience of the principal grantee.
6. **Partners List:** Provide a list of all project partners, including names, titles, affiliations and roles associated with the project.
7. **Project Budget:** Identify the full cost of the project, including contributions/match, and identify the dollar amount requested in the proposal, up to $1000. This section should include a detailed budget for the project and requested funds. Indirect expenses/overhead are not covered by this grant. If the project generates an income source, the proposal must detail how the income is to be used, donated, etc.
8. **Disposal of Tangible Items:** All property bought with TCS funds is property of TCS and must be given to TCS at the end of the project, unless otherwise specified in the grant award document or subsequently discussed with the TCS grant committee.
9. **Expected Deliverables:** What deliverables will be given to TCS at the conclusion of the project, i.e. maps, bio-inventory survey results, dye trace results, etc.

Please send inquiries and proposals to the TCS via email: <tennesseecavesurvey@gmail.com>