

**Subject:** Friends of Sunset Zoo Conservation Scholar Program

As we have for the past four years, the Friends of Sunset Zoo is offering two conservation scholarships – a \$2,000 scholarship for graduate research and a \$1,000 scholarship for undergraduate research. As you may have noticed, we were able to double the amount available for these scholarships. I have attached the application forms required.

Applications are due **Friday, March 24, 2017**, by 5:00 p.m. CDT.

Two awards will be conferred: one for graduate students, up to \$2,000 for expenses related to a field conservation project to be completed by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year; another for undergraduate students, up to \$1,000 for expenses related to a field conservation project to be completed by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Projects must meet the definition of “Field Conservation” provided by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Field Conservation Committee: “action that helps secure the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats.” In particular, we will give preference to research related to black-footed ferrets, Puerto Rican crested toads, or pollinators.

FOSZ Conservation Scholarships may be used for direct costs related to the Scholar’s field work, including research that helps protect species in the wild, or protection of species or ecosystems *in situ*; awareness-building through information/education materials conducted on behalf of a non-governmental organization (NGO) that publicizes conservation; or outcome-oriented education programs that target an audience that directly impacts the species or habitat of concern. The complete definition of “field conservation” can be found on the AZA website at [https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/fcc\\_fieldconservationdefinition\\_approved2013.pdf](https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/fcc_fieldconservationdefinition_approved2013.pdf).

## [Defining Field Conservation for the AZA Community](#)

[www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)

Defining Field Conservation for the AZA Community Developed by the Field Conservation Committee Approved in 2013 Field conservation is directly contributing to the ...

The proposed schedule is as follows:

|                        |                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 2017          | Application released                                                         |
| March 24, 2017         | Applications due 5:00 p.m. CDT                                               |
| March 27-April 7, 2017 | FOSZ reviews applications                                                    |
| April 7, 2017          | Scholarship recipient chosen and notified                                    |
| April 22, 2017         | Scholarship recipient introduced during Earth Day celebrations at Sunset Zoo |

Additional details regarding the FOSZ Conservation Scholar Program can be found in the application. Please forward to any professors that may help promote the scholarship or students you think might be interested in applying. Thank you for helping to promote this opportunity to KU students. If you have any questions, please contact me any time.

David A. Carter

Chair, Conservation Committee  
Friends of Sunset Zoo  
785-532-4998 (office)  
785-537-3817 (home)  
785-341-2804 (cell)  
[www.sunsetzoo.com](http://www.sunsetzoo.com)

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[Sunset Zoo, KS - Official Website | Official Website](http://www.sunsetzoo.com)

[www.sunsetzoo.com](http://www.sunsetzoo.com)

Manhattan near Topeka. General information, zoo map, animal photos and descriptions,  
and education program information.

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**We love Sunset Zoo. Come see why.**



## FOSZ CONSERVATION SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2017

For an electronic copy of this application visit: [www.SunsetZoo.com/Conservation](http://www.SunsetZoo.com/Conservation)

Questions? Email: [fosz@cityofmnhk.com](mailto:fosz@cityofmnhk.com) • Phone: 785.587.2737

Friends of Sunset Zoo (FOSZ) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity whose members support Sunset Zoo through membership services, donations, advocacy and fund-raising. FOSZ works alongside Sunset Zoo to support its mission to “inspire conservation of the natural world.” In reflection of that mission, the FOSZ Board of Directors has established the Conservation Scholar program to inspire the next generation of conservation-minded professionals.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Actively pursuing an associate’s, bachelor’s or graduate-level degree in wildlife conservation or a related field at an accredited two-year or four-year institution of higher education
- Completed at least 48 credit hours or more of undergraduate coursework by end of the 2017 Spring academic semester
- Have a cumulative college grade-point average of at least a 3.0 or the equivalent
- Be pursuing full-time study during the 2017-2018 academic year
- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. permanent resident
- Successfully submit a complete application

First preference will be given to applicants that meet one or all of the following criteria:

- Students attending an accredited two-year or four-year institution of higher education in Kansas
- Current Friends of Sunset Zoo members and/or their dependents (NOTE: Members of the FOSZ Board of Directors and their dependents are ineligible)
- Research related to black-footed ferrets, Puerto Rican crested toads, or pollinators

Scholars will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to the conservation of the natural world through substantial contributions to and involvement in campus activities, research, and/or community and public service
- Course of study and proposed career likely to lead to position where nominee can make significant contributions to local, regional, national and/or global conservation efforts
- Proposal of a feasible, yet impactful, field conservation project that meets the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) definition of “Field Conservation” as outlined in the “Award Benefits & Conditions” paragraph below
- Demonstrated leadership and a desire to make a continuing difference to conservation and wildlife

### DEADLINE

All required documents must reach Friends of Sunset Zoo – Attn: Scholarship Award, 2333 Oak Street, Manhattan, KS 66502, by postal mail or email ([fosz@cityofmnhk.com](mailto:fosz@cityofmnhk.com)) no later than **Friday, March 24, 2017, 5:00 PM Central**.

The FOSZ Board of Directors is the sole body responsible for determining the award of scholarships. Applicants will be notified of the Board’s decision in writing by the President of the Friends of Sunset Zoo Board.

The anticipated schedule of events is as follows:

|                        |                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 2017          | Application released                                                         |
| March 24, 2017         | Applications due 5:00 p.m. CDT                                               |
| March 27-April 7, 2017 | FOSZ reviews applications                                                    |
| April 7, 2017          | Scholarship recipient chosen and notified                                    |
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## AWARD BENEFITS & CONDITIONS

Two awards will be conferred: one for graduate students, up to \$2,000 for expenses related to a field conservation project to be completed by the end of the 2017 –2018 academic year; another for undergraduate students, up to \$1,000 for expenses related to a field conservation project to be completed by the end of the 2017 –2018 academic year. Projects must meet the definition of “Field Conservation” provided by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums Field Conservation Committee: “action that helps secure the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats.”

FOSZ Conservation Scholarships may be used for direct costs related to the Scholar’s field work, including research that helps protect species in the wild, or protection of species or ecosystems *in situ*; awareness-building through informational/educational materials conducted on behalf of a non-governmental organization (NGO) that publicizes conservation; or outcome-oriented education programs that target an audience that directly impacts the species or habitat of concern. The complete definition of “field conservation” can be found on the AZA website at:

[https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/fcc\\_fieldconservationdefinition\\_approved2013.pdf](https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/fcc_fieldconservationdefinition_approved2013.pdf) .

Payments may supplement, but not duplicate, benefits from other foundations, institutions, or organizations.

To receive payments, a FOSZ Conservation Scholar must submit the following:

- An acceptance of the scholarship;
- An agreement to submit a Conservation Scholar Impact Report within one month of completing the study
- An agreement to make a public presentation of the field conservation work to a FOSZ audience



# FOSZ CONSERVATION SCHOLAR APPLICATION

- I am applying for the \$2,000 graduate student scholarship
- I am applying for the \$1,000 undergraduate student scholarship

In addition to the completed Scholar Application, applicants must submit a resume or curriculum vitae describing any professional or volunteer experiences, awards, research or other relevant activities that demonstrate the applicant’s commitment to conserving the natural world. Applicants must also submit a two-paragraph letter of recommendation on department letterhead from a current teacher testifying to the applicant’s academic fitness.

**TITLE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

## A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Full Legal Name

LAST FIRST M.I.

Permanent Residence

STREET NUMBER

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

*(Permanent residence is established by at least two of the following: home address for school registration; place of registration to vote; family’s primary residence.)*

If you wish correspondence to be sent to a different address:

STREET NUMBER

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

BEST TELEPHONE BEST EMAIL ADDRESS

- ARE YOU:  U.S. CITIZEN  U.S. NATIONAL  U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT  
 YOU OR A PARENT/GRANDPARENT/GUARDIAN ARE A CURRENT FOSZ MEMBER

*(Permanent Residents must include a letter stating your intent to become a U.S. citizen and a copy of your Permanent Registration Card.)*

## B. YOUR ASPIRATIONS

1. In one to two sentences, describe your professional aspirations (Limit 575 characters with spaces):

2. What causes or issues do you hope to address relative to field conservation, (see definition in the "Award Benefits & Conditions" section on page two) and how will this project help you achieve that goal? (Limit 1,000 characters with spaces or less).

**C. EDUCATION INFORMATION**

I AM CURRENTLY PURSUING:  ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE  BACHELOR’S DEGREE  GRADUATE DEGREE

**What is (are) your undergraduate major(s)?**

**What is your graduate field of study, if applicable, or do you plan to pursue this in the future?**

**What is your cumulative GPA? On a scale of:**

**How many total credits towards graduation have you earned as of May 31, 2017?**

**When do you expect to complete your degree?**

List any awards, honors, or scholarships you have received in the past four years. Please list in descending order of significance. You have space to list up to six awards.

| NAME | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|------|------|-------------|
|------|------|-------------|

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**D. YOUR FIELD CONSERVATION WORK**

**The proposed project must meet the definition of "Field Conservation" as defined in the "Award Benefits & Conditions" section on page two.**

1. Provide a concise statement of the problem to be investigated/hypothesis to be tested below:

2. What is the Location/Region of your intended research?

3. Who are the project's other primary investigators/collaborators?

4. Who is providing mentorship towards you and the project? (Include contact information.)

5. List (in detail) the methods to be used, including specific protocols, data analyses of procedure to be followed and anticipated quantifiable environmental outcomes:

6. State your project's estimated expenses and timeline below:

7. In what publications or by what means do you intend to disseminate your project findings?

8. In one to two sentences, describe the impact of your field conservation work relative to Sunset Zoo and the field of Conservation (Limit 350 characters with spaces):

9. Sunset Zoo’s mission is to “inspire conservation of the natural world.” How does your project help achieve this mission? (Limit 1,000 characters with spaces or less)

**E. AGREEMENTS (Signature)**

If awarded the grant as FOSZ Conservation Scholar, do you, upon acceptance, agree to abide by all provisions as listed in “Award Benefits & Conditions” section on page two, including the written report and the public presentation? Additionally, do you swear that all of your statements in this application are, to the best of your knowledge, accurate representations? If so, please sign your name and date below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Resume or Curriculum Vitae attached

Letter of Recommendation Attached