



Avian Scientific Advisory Group

THE MARY HEALY GRANT FOR AZA AVIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

2016 Guidelines and Application Process

Purpose: The Avian Scientific Advisory Group (ASAG) believes that recruiting and building capacity in the next generation of zoo bird managers is vital to the continuity and survival of zoo avian programs. To this end, ASAG offers small grants to bird keepers and working bird husbandry supervisors. These grants support travel to ASAG-sponsored workshops at the 2016 AZA Mid-Year meeting in Omaha, Nebraska for the purpose of presenting papers on advancements in the care, welfare, reproduction, or conservation of avian species. It is envisioned that grant recipients will become more familiar with ASAG's purpose and goals, begin to establish a network of colleagues and mentors, and become active participating members of AZA avian programs.

Criteria for Funding: Grant applicants must be a paid employee of an AZA-accredited institution or other Regional Zoological Association, a member of either AZA or AAZK, and work in a position that involves the care and management of captive birds. Persons holding the title Curator of Birds or Assistant Curator of Birds (or their equivalent) are not eligible. Recipients will make a presentation on a topic relevant to zoo aviculture or conservation at the March 2016 ASAG meeting held at the AZA Mid-Year conference. All work must be original and not have been presented or published elsewhere. Preferred topics are those which involve taxa of current or future priority in the appropriate TAG regional collection plans; taxa for which innovation in breeding or captive management are needed; taxa of conservation priority in the wild; significant advancements in the welfare of captive zoo birds; and significant avian conservation programs. Applicants will also be judged on their leadership potential, initiative, and problem solving skills based on the content of their resume and the recommendation of their direct supervisor or manager.

Proposal Submission Deadline: 1 December 2015

Process for Application and Review: Applicants should submit

- (1) A completed application
- (2) A supervisor's letter of recommendation
- (3) A letter of institutional support
- (4) A resume
- (5) A title and abstract of the presentation that is between 100 and 250 words.

The application will include current job title, a summary of personal avicultural experience, rationale for how the presentation will advance zoo aviculture and the applicant's professional career, and a travel budget. The letter of recommendation must come from the applicant's direct supervisor or manager. A letter of support must be signed by the institution's director and verify the zoo will provide the support necessary to ensure the applicant can attend the ASAG workshop if the applicant is awarded a grant. Abstracts will be reviewed based on the criteria stated above. All materials must be submitted electronically as either a WORD document or as a PDF file. Applicants will be notified of the final award by 15 January 2016.

Expectations of Grant Recipients: Grant recipients are expected to travel to the 2016 ASAG-sponsored workshop in Omaha, Nebraska for their presentation. The presentation must be in a Power Point format and a copy of the presentation must be submitted for posting on the ASAG website. Copies of expense receipts specifically related to transportation to and from the ASAG workshop and for housing and meals while attending the workshop are to be provided to the ASAG Grants Program Chair within 30 days of the end of the workshop.

Grant Funds Management: Maximum grant awards will be \$1200 but may be less based on actual travel costs. Grant funds will pay the AZA registration fees for the entire conference, four days lodging at one-half the conference hotel rate (recipients are expected to share a room or cover the additional costs of a single room), transportation, and meals which are not included with registration. All expenses in line with ASAG travel guidelines will be reimbursed. Expenses cannot exceed \$1200. Checks for reimbursement will be made directly to the party that incurred the expenses. Detailed reimbursement guidelines will be sent when the grant is approved.

Send Proposals or Address Grant Process Questions To:

Tom Schneider

ASAG Small Grants Program Chair

Curator of Birds

Detroit Zoological Society

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