



North American Pollinator Protection Campaign Call for Proposals Related to Lepidoptera Research

Background

Over the past 25 years, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) has been an international force driving interest in the vital role and fragile status of native and managed pollinator species. NAPPC's mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America. These pollinators are responsible for one-third of global food production. A yearly conference brings together experts from across the world to share knowledge, raise public awareness, promote constructive dialogue, and develop key partnerships to support research on pollinator species. Through the creation of specific task forces, NAPPC encourages experts and interested parties to come together and work on complex issues facing pollinators. One such task force is the Lepidoptera Task Force. Created in 2021, we are dedicated to promoting, educating about, and protecting essential moth and butterfly pollinators. Learn more at www.napppc.org.

There are estimated to be up to 20,000 species of butterflies worldwide. Moths outnumber butterflies by a factor of ten, with almost 190,000 species globally. These fascinating insects provide pollination and ecosystem services of a diverse variety. Although the beauty and complexity of butterflies and moths capture people's imaginations and encourage actions to help protect them, the importance of Lepidoptera as pollinators is underestimated. Unlike many other pollinators, the function that butterflies and moths serve in the ecosystem and their relationship with specific plants and habitat elements change substantially as they transform from larva to adult. We at NAPPC have established a goal to build more knowledge and understanding of the crucial role Lepidoptera play in our ecosystems and help to preserve this connection.

Grant Program Details

The NAPPC Lepidoptera Task Force established a new grant program to support projects related to Lepidoptera conservation in 2022. In 2026, NAPPC is seeking project proposals for *research grants only*. This small grant aims to support research projects that need some additional support to get off the ground, or projects that are underway but need additional

support for completion. The maximum funding request is \$5,000. The period of performance will be April. 1, 2026 – March 30, 2027.

Research Continuation Grants

1. Given the 1-year performance period, most likely new research projects will not be able to generate findings; however, funding to complete existing research projects may be suitable. Examples of research topics related to conservation include:
 - a. Lepidoptera reintroductions
 - b. Captive rearing methods
 - c. Plant pollinator preference
 - d. Phenological studies
 - e. Impacts of environmental variables
 - f. Pesticide toxicity

Eligibility

Nonprofits, NGOs, educational institutions, and students are encouraged to apply. Government agencies and for-profit companies are not eligible. Focused, targeted projects with a high likelihood of providing tangible results that can be applied to improving Lepidoptera conservation are preferred. Proposals providing valuable additions to previously funded projects will be considered but results must be distinct. Proposals that focus on political efforts such as lobbying, litigation, and petitions are not eligible. Principal investigators of all funded projects will be expected to present their final report to the Lepidoptera Task Force and are encouraged to serve on the Task Force in the future.

Please note: One time at the midpoint of the grant-cycle, grantees will be asked to provide in-progress photos or videos, and/or a short written description of their project to be utilized by the grant program's funders and by Pollinator Partnership/NAPPC. Grantees can work with the Lepidoptera Task Force to meet this requirement in a manner that makes sense for them.

Proposal Requirements

1. Proposal title and project team with contact information including email(s), physical mailing address, and telephone number(s).
2. Priority area focus/foci.
3. Three-page project description maximum, with sufficient background and description of methods (12-pt font, single spaced, with page numbers; references are not included in this page limit).
4. Detailed budget. As a non-profit organization, the Pollinator Partnership/NAPPC does not pay overhead on funded grants.
5. Project timeline by month (April 1, 2026 – March 30, 2027).
6. Project team qualifications, including a two-page (maximum) resume of the primary applicant(s).
7. Please explain if the proposal is under consideration by other funding organizations.

Assessment of Proposals

The proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria: defined objectives, conservation impact, budget, feasibility, and merit.

Submission

Please submit your proposal through the [form linked here](#) by 11:59 PM PT on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

Email shannon@pollinator.org with any questions.

Funding Decisions

The proposals will be evaluated, and funding notifications will be made by early April 2026.