Southern Integrated Pest Management Center

Request for Applications

2026 IPM Ambassador Travel Grant

Rolling Deadline:
Applications will be accepted and evaluated until funds are expended.

The Southern IPM Center (SIPMC) is pleased to release this call for applications for the 2025-2026 IPM Ambassador Travel Grant.

The mission of the Southern IPM Center is to champion the development and adoption of integrated pest management, the science of managing pests while protecting people, the environment, and economy. The Center engages broadly with stakeholders to identify and address regional pest priorities in agriculture, communities, and natural areas. Since 2003, SIPMC has worked with USDA, Land Grant universities, Extension, and many other partners in promoting and facilitating the development and implementation of IPM in many settings across the region.

The IPM Ambassador Travel Grant responds to the call to action put in place by the National IPM Roadmap that expresses an urgent need to address IPM challenges that affect development, communication and effective implementation of IPM strategies and technologies to manage pests effectively, slow the rate of resistance evolution, preserve existing control measures and create effective new approaches. To further meet this need, the IPM Ambassador Travel Grant provides support to travel to conferences, meetings, or workshops to bring IPM awareness to new audiences.

The Prize:

- IPM Ambassador Travel Grant recipients will receive funding of up to $1,500 to enable travel to one domestic conference, meeting, or workshop in 2025/2026. A maximum of four recipients will be awarded this year.
    - To receive the prize, IPM Ambassadors must be willing to provide a short write-up of the conference/meeting that they attend and/or be willing to work with the Center's Communication Director for publications around the grant.

Who can apply?

- Any individual who is willing to communicate the science, practice, or implementation of IPM to new stakeholders and audiences is eligible, including professionals, students (including undergraduate and graduate), post-docs, practitioners, educators, extension agents, pesticide safety educators, researchers, technology innovators, land and natural resource managers, agricultural producers, residential and public pest managers, public health officials, wildlife health officials, invasive species scientists, biosecurity experts, communicators, or any other audience or discipline that can be convincingly relevant to IPM.
- Applicants must be based in the Southern region (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Virginia).
- Travel to conferences/meetings that are already funded by another Southern IPM Center grant are NOT eligible for IPM Ambassador travel funds.

What conferences or meetings are eligible?

Preference will be given to nominees who plan to attend conferences, meetings, or workshops where IPM is under-communicated, OR who plan to disseminate information from the conference/meeting to audiences where IPM is under-communicated. However, all relevant conferences, meetings, and workshops will be considered. We understand that full conference details may not yet be confirmed for 2025/2026; you may still apply for a travel grant even if all conference details are not yet solidified. **Conferences/meetings must be held in the United States and its territories**; we cannot fund travel to international conferences at this time. Conferences/meetings are not restricted to locations within the Southern region.

IPM Ambassador Travel Grant

The IPM Ambassador Travel Grant recognizes individuals who are outstanding proponents of the linkages of IPM to solving societal challenges and who have the ability to communicate with new stakeholders and audiences. Societal challenges include: human health, natural resource stewardship, and food security, among others. These awards will fund travel for awardees to promote IPM at a conference, meeting, or workshop where IPM has been under-communicated.

Award criteria for the IPM Ambassador Travel Grant include the uniqueness of the conference's audience, the applicant's communication skills, how they plan to engage with others about IPM, and their ability to bring IPM awareness to new audiences.

The IPM Ambassador Travel Grant application must be submitted in the Grants Management System (see below) and requires answering the following questions:

1. **General Information**
    1. What is your name, title, affiliation, and contact information (email, phone)?
    2. What state are you from/affiliated with?

2. **Application Questions*:**
    1. Provide a brief biographical statement telling us about your professional life.
    2. What conference/meeting do you plan to attend?
    3. Select the audience(s) of which you intend to share IPM information.
    4. Describe the specifics about your audience.
    5. How are you planning to engage with others about IPM at/after this conference/meeting?
    6. Briefly describe how attending this conference/meeting will bring IPM awareness to new audiences.
    7. Additional Information (Optional).

    *For examples of how to answer these questions, please see the IPM Ambassadors Grant form in the Grant Management System.

Selection Process:

- Center Directors and staff will review the applications at least quarterly and select travel grant awardees based upon the ability of the recipients to bring IPM awareness to new audiences and funding availability.

Submission of Nominations:
All applications must be submitted in electronic format through the online Grants Management System. There is no deadline for submission and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all funds are expended. Please submit applications well in advance of your intended conference date to ensure timely review.

To submit an application, see the following instructions:

1. Visit the Friends of IPM Awards and IPM Ambassadors page within the Grants Management System (GMS). There you will find links to the IPM Ambassador Travel Grant form.
2. Click on the appropriate form to begin an application submission.
3. Follow the prompt to login or create an account.

4. Confirm that the application form title lists the IPM Ambassador Travel Grant and click "Begin a new proposal".
5. Click "Edit title". **Use the name of the nominee as the project title**. Click "Save".
6. Complete each application section, located at the bottom left side of your screen. Note that there are two required sections of the application, namely General Information and Application Questions.
7. To answer a question within a section, choose "edit answer" and enter the information. As you finish each question, please click save before moving on.
8. Once you have successfully finished a section, a check mark will appear.
   Note: You may leave the application form at any time and return to it later by logging into GMS.
9. After completing all the required questions in all sections in the online GMS, you will then have the option to submit your application. (If there is an asterisk next to a section, there is a required question that is missing information.)
10. Click "Submit Application" by the deadline to be considered for a IPM Ambassador Travel Grant.
11. Once you submit your nomination, an email acknowledgement of receipt will be sent.

    Note: If you do not receive an email submission receipt, then an error may have occurred. Please reach out to the Program Manager to check the status of your submission.

Video tutorials are also available on how to create an account, edit your account information, and create and submit your proposal.

This specific RFA is for the IPM Ambassador Travel Grant. We have separate awards for recognizing outstanding graduate students and professionals: the Friends of IPM Graduate Student Awards and the Friends of IPM Professional Awards (typically open from August to October of each year). These RFAs can be found on the Friends of IPM Awards page within the Grant Management System.

Contact Information:
If you have any questions, please contact:

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