

EXAMPLE DIGITAL STORYTELLING MICRO-GRANT APPLICATION

Actual application must be completed through website.

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please provide your contact information and identify to which grant you're applying. Limit one application per person. Thank you!

Full Name:

Sally Doe

Email Address:

grants@wildfire-experience.org

Phone Number:

123-456-7890

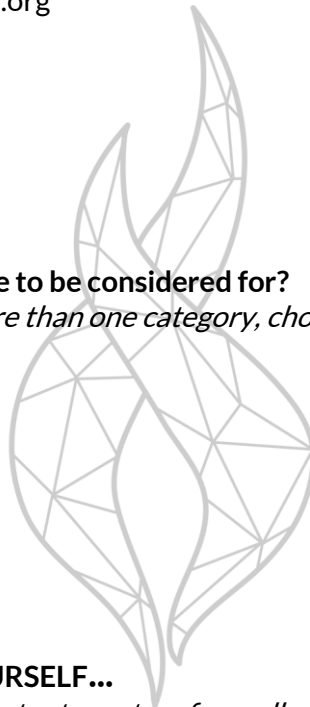
City, Province/State, and Country:

Anytown, CA (USA)

What grant category would you like to be considered for?

If your project concept includes more than one category, choose the primary category for which you'd like to be considered.

- Photography micro-grant
- Videography micro-grant
- Writing micro-grant



SECTION 2: TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF...

We are excited to support digital content creators from all aspects of the wildland fire industry. We would like to know a little bit about who you are, how you've been sharing your story, and what your creative approach looks like. Don't be shy - these grants are for wildland firefighters and practitioners from all walks of life and at all levels!

Tell us a bit about your background. How are you involved in wildland fire and what kind of storytelling have you been doing along the way?

I have been a wildland firefighter for six years and am currently a Senior Firefighter on ABC Handcrew with the Forest Service up in Region 6. During the 2020 fire season, I will be filling-in as Saw Boss and hope to work on my Crew Boss task book.

I have been doing digital storytelling about wildland fire primarily on social media. I have a personal account where I share photos of my experience on the fireline and interpret those photos in the captions to help people understand what they're looking at when viewing my

photographs. I enjoy capturing “normal” fireline activities – where the hard work really happens – mop-up, hiking in fully loaded with gear, cleaning tools, etc.

Please provide links to a few examples of your work (e.g., fireline photographs, videos, a piece of writing you wrote during a tough assignment, a sketch that you created while on a fire, etc. All types of submissions are welcomed. (You MUST supply examples of previous work).

My Instagram account has the best examples of my photography:
[@thesmokeygeneration.com](https://www.instagram.com/thesmokegeneration.com).

I have posted a few videos at my Vimeo account: <https://vimeo.com/thesmokegeneration>

I will also send you a piece of writing that I wrote during my last fire season via email (to demonstrate my ability to write descriptions for my photographs).

Links to your Instagram/Facebook/YouTube/Vimeo account, blogs, or portfolios can be used as examples (make sure your permissions are set for public viewing). If you would prefer to send your work via email, you can do so (instructions in actual application).

SECTION 3: WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSAL/VISION FOR YOUR DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECT?

Our digital storytelling grants are intended to help wildland fire content creators/creatives share their experience with the broader public. Your project proposal should outline how you would like to use photography, video, writing, or artwork to share your story and/or the story of wildland fire throughout the 2020/2021 fire year.

You are encouraged to be creative and innovative with your concept. You might propose to create a series of profile/headshots of fellow crew members during mop-up (to showcase the camaraderie of a fire crew), a time-lapse video of landscape regeneration after an early-spring prescribed fire (to generate discussion about the role of fire in the environment), a three-part blog post on a specific wildland fire policy issue (to help educate people on fire management), a photographic look-back at the Australian bush fire season, or a compilation of fire season poetry (to illustrate firefighters' intimate connection to nature)... The possibilities are endless.

Be sure to tell us what you propose to create and what you hope to convey through your digital storytelling. Your project must be compelling and must be able to be completed within the fire year.

Please note: Projects that tell the story of wildland fire during the COVID19 pandemic are of particular interest to the grant committee this year, though not a limiting factor for selection.

Describe in detail your vision for your wildland fire digital storytelling project. Please be specific about what you will be producing/creating.

One of the things I love most about firefighting how hard wildland firefighters work to make things happen out on the fireline. I have always wanted to do a series of portraits of fellow crew members, but instead of classic headshots, I want to create anonymous shots of portions of people's bodies while at work. For example, one portrait might be of just someone's hand holding a drip torch. Another portrait might be of the back of his/her pack while carrying extra hose up a steep hill. Yet another portrait might be of a pair of boots walking through the ash during mop-up. I would like these photographs to depict "every crewman" or "every crewwoman" so that people (the public) could see themselves out on the fireline.

What are your project goals? What are you hoping to convey through your work?

It's important to me that I'm able to capture the dedication and effort that goes into fighting fire. With these portraits, I'm hoping to convey the work ethic I have found to be so prevalent among wildland firefighters so that people understand what it takes to fight fire and can see the drive and heart behind what we do.

I also think it's important to show what actually goes into suppressing fires so that we can start having a larger conversation around the fact that maybe we shouldn't be suppressing all fires to the degree we are (i.e., there are often better ways of managing wildland fire that don't require full suppression).

What digital products will you create as part of your project? For example, "I will produce a series containing seven fireline photographs, each with captions." "I will produce one 5-minute video of XYZ." "I will produce two blog posts."

I will produce a series of 20 curated and edited photographs for this grant. These photographs will be posted on Instagram with detailed captions providing context for each shot. To wrap it all together, I will do a digital exhibition of all of the portraits at the end of the season with additional contextualization.

What is your proposed timeline for your project?

I will be producing and posting these portraits throughout June, July, and August (fire season dependent). I will share on my personal account and use the AWE provided hashtags to reach a wider audience.

In September, once I've posted the whole series, I'll do a "digital exhibition" of the portraits (providing additional background on each image from my own perspective). I'll do this using the Story functionality on Instagram. That way I'm meeting the AWE definition of digital storytelling by coupling my personal story with that of the broader public issue of wildland fire I'm depicting in my images.

Grant Budget: Please describe how you will use this award. Please outline your total budget for this award. It is required to supply a budget, either in the application or via email.

On the fireline, I take photographs with my smartphone, a Google Pixel. With this grant award, I would buy two Moment smartphone camera lenses totaling \$250. I would spend an additional \$150 on mounts, filters, and accessories. These tools will increase the quality of my photographs significantly. The remaining \$100 would be allocated for my time completing post production work, including editing photographs prior to posting online.

This grant requires that a minimum of fifty-percent of your budget be allocated towards purchasing tools, equipment, or software that support your storytelling efforts. Your budget should delineate what you will be purchasing (and the expected cost) and how the remaining portion of the funds will be used. If your budget proposal exceeds \$500.00, please indicate how the remaining portion will be funded. If you prefer, you may email a copy of your budget.



**These are the real questions you'll be asked, but the actual application must be completed online and is available at:
Wildfire-Experience.org**

Please email any questions to: grants@wildfire-experience.org