

# EXAMPLE DIGITAL STORYTELLING MICRO-GRANT APPLICATION

**Actual application must be completed through website**

At the American Wildfire Experience, we define digital storytelling as the process of coupling personal stories with broader public issues (like wildland fire) by leveraging digital technology and media to showcase stories and the storytellers. We consider digital storytelling to be a process of community building and an integral part of educating and engaging the public about wildland fire. Put simply, at The American Wildfire Experience, we want to encourage and promote quality wildland fire storytelling that helps influence public perceptions about wildland fire and shines a light on our human experience with fire.

**This is an example of the questions that are included in the 2021 Wildland Fire Digital Storytelling Micro-grant Application. Please note, this year the application process is two-fold. First, you will submit your application online. Second, you will receive an email with an invitation to a Dropbox Folder. You will be required to upload 3-10 examples of your previous work to that folder and a copy of the budget worksheet (which you can download [here](#)).**

## Applicant Information

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

<b>Full Name</b>	Sally Doe
<b>Email Address</b>	grants@wildfire-experience.org
<b>Phone Number</b>	123-456-7890
<b>City, Province/State, and Country</b>	Anytown, CA (USA)

## Tell us about yourself...

We are excited to support digital content creators with firsthand wildland fire experience. 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 people with first-hand experience wildland fire, including general public impacted by wildland fire, as well as 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 2021 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.

**We require all applicants to submit 2-10 examples of their 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.)**

*HERE IS HOW TO PROVIDE EXAMPLES: Once you submit your application, we will set up and invite you to a Dropbox Folder for you to upload your examples (and budget worksheet, more info on that below). All types of submissions are welcomed. Once you get the invite, simply upload up to 10 examples of your work to the folder before the deadline.*

I understand that I will be invited to share examples of my work (via Dropbox) in a separate email once I've submitted my application. I understand that it may take a full business day to receive that invite.

**Where can we find you online?**

*You are encouraged to provide links to your social media accounts (make sure they're publicly accessible or we won't view), blogs, or portfolios that contain examples of your work. Video applicants can share their YouTube and Vimeo video links here, too. Please note: sharing your IG account here does not replace the need to provide examples above.*

My Instagram account has the best examples of my photography: @thesmokeygeneration.com. I have posted a few videos at my Vimeo account: <https://vimeo.com/thesmokeygeneration>

**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 other digital mediums to share your story and/or the story of wildland fire throughout the 2021/2022 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.

<b>Project Name:</b>	Fireline Portraiture – Heartbeats in Action
<b>What grant category would you like to be considered for (choose one)?</b> <i>If your project concept includes more than one category, choose the primary category for which you'd like to be considered.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Videography <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Describe in detail your vision for your wildland fire digital storytelling project. Please be specific about what you will be producing/creating.</b> <i>This is the most important part of your application.</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I would like these photographs to depict “every crewman” or “every crewwoman” so that people (the public) could see themselves out on the fireline. As my former superintendent used to say when we were down a crewmember for an assignment and needed a fill-in, “I need heartbeats in seats.” In other words, the crew is made up of all types of people and I want to show that in a unique way.</p>
<b>What are your project goals?</b> <i>What are you hoping to convey through your work? This is the second most important part of your application.</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>the degree we are (i.e., there are often better ways of managing wildland fire that don't require full suppression).</p>
<p><b>What is your proposed timeline for your project?</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>What digital products will you create as part of your project?</b>  <i>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." Please note, you are setting your own deliverables in this section - make sure they are reasonable and realistic within the project timeline.</i></p>	<p>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.</p>

**Grant Budget**

*This grant requires that a minimum of fifty-percent of your budget be allocated towards purchasing tools, equipment, or software that support your storytelling effort.*

*HERE IS HOW TO PROVIDE YOUR BUDGET WORKSHEET: Once you submit your application, we will set up and invite you to a Dropbox Folder for you to upload your examples and budget worksheet. The budget worksheet will be attached to the email (you can also download it from the grants page on the website: <http://wildfire-experience.org/wildland-fire-digital-storytelling-micro-grants>).*

*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.*

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