



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

APPLICATION FOR FITZGERALD TRAVEL GRANT 2026

Application Deadline: June 1, 2026, Close of Business (COB) Your Local Time

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is offering travel grants for the **2026 SPNHC Annual Meeting**, <https://spnhc.org/spnhc-2026-south-africa/>. Applicants must be members of the Society or apply for membership before the application will be accepted. While any SPNHC member may apply, preference will be given to students (undergraduate or graduate) and emerging professionals in fields related to the management of or innovative technology applied to increase access to natural history collections. Preference will also be given to applicants presenting at the conference.

A letter of support from the applicant's advisor, supervisor, or professional mentor should be submitted, together with this application. A copy of the applicant's presentation/poster abstract should also be submitted if the applicant is presenting. (See below for instructions for submission.)

SPNHC members from the following countries are strongly encouraged to apply—Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

Name			
Institution			
Address			
City			
State/Province			
Zip Code			
Country			
Country of Residence			
Email address(es)			
Are you presenting a paper?	Y	N	
Are you presenting a poster?	Y	N	
Are you a current member of SPNHC? If yes, put the number of months or years you have been a member in the box with the "Y."	Y	N	
Are you receiving any additional funds to attend this meeting?	Y	N	

Respond to each of the following five questions, limiting your response to 400 words total per question.

1. Give a brief description of your Institution. (Students - Describe your course of studies.)
2. Give a brief description of your current position, duties, and number of years in the museum profession. (Students - State your goals in the profession.)
3. How will your attendance at the SPNHC annual meeting strengthen your career as well as your work at your institution? (Students - How will your attendance strengthen your future career? How will it help you meet your goals in the profession?)
4. I need financial assistance because...
5. Describe how you will contribute to SPNHC if you receive this award (see next paragraph for details).

Recipients will be required to contribute to SPNHC in some manner. Ideas of ways to do so include, but are not limited to:

- Having been accepted to present a paper or poster at this year's SPNHC 2025 conference.
- Contributing a session/workshop review or report (e.g., a description of a collections management/conservation project or a description of your research) to the SPNHC newsletter.
- Submitting an article for publication in *Collections Forum*.

Please submit your application, a letter of support, and an abstract (if presenting) to Elise V. LeCompte, Chair, SPNHC Travel Grants Sub-Committee. Electronic submission is preferred, but hard copies will be accepted at the address below:

Elise V. LeCompte
Chair, SPNHC Travel Grants Sub-Committee

Email: evlecompte2@gmail.com

(If you are unable to submit an application by email, please contact Ms. LeCompte for instructions on alternative submission methods.)

Checklist:

- ✓ Completed application form
- ✓ Letter of support/recommendation
- ✓ Abstract if presenting a paper or poster
- ✓ Enrolled as current member in SPNHC (<https://spnhc.wildapricot.org/join-us>)

Recipients will be notified by email and will receive an award letter to sign and return. Funds may be used for any expenses related to the conference. Recipients will be responsible for registering for the conference. Further details will be provided in the award letter.