



BWEEMS

Black Women in Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Science

Black Women in Ecology, Evolution and Marine Science (BWEEMS) Mini Grants 2026

BWEEMS Mini Grants aim to support the financial wellness of our members by providing financial support for both personal and professional endeavors. Up to **\$1000 USD** can be applied for to be used for either personal expenses, research or career development costs.

There are four types of mini grants available for 2026:

- **Track 1: Expanding Circles Fund** provides support for conference attendance while encouraging connection and peer mentorship among BWEEMS members. Awardees may choose to serve as peer mentors to others attending the same conference. There will be **two application cycles** for this fund.

Key Dates:

Conferences that will occur between April - August

- Applications open: February 11th (International Day for Women and Girls in Science)
- Applications close: March 4th at 11:59pm ET
- Award notification: End of March 2026
- Funds disbursed: Early April 2026

Conferences that will occur between September - February 2027

- Applications open: July 23rd
- Applications close: August 13 at 11:59 pm ET
- Award notification: End of August 2026
- Funds disbursed: Early September 2026

- **Track 2: Eco/Evo Catalyst Fund** can be used to support ecology or evolution research or educational initiatives that are aquatic (freshwater only) or terrestrial

Key Dates:

- Applications open: April 22nd (Earth Day)
- Applications close: May 13 at 11:59pm ET
- Award notification: End of May 2026
- Funds disbursed: Early June 2026

- **Track 3: Thrive and Flourish Fund** can be used to support personal expenses such as living expenses (rent, food, insurance, transportation), childcare, etc. (*subject to taxes; proper documentation will need to be collected before funds are dispersed*)

Key Dates:

- Applications open: June 5th (World Environment Day)
 - Applications close: June 24 at 11:59pm ET
 - Award notification: End of June 2026
 - Funds disbursed: Early July 2026
- **Track 4: Pathways to Discovery Fund** can be used to support work-related expenses including research supplies, tuition, educational tools, publication costs, etc. (*cannot be used for conference costs*)

Key Dates:

- Applications open: September 4th (National Wildlife Day)
- Applications close: September 18th at 11:59 PM
- Award notification: Late September 2026
- Funds disbursed: Early October 2026

Eligibility:

All BWEEMS members at any career stage are eligible for the mini grants. Members may apply for multiple tracks, but will likely only be selected for one of the tracks. To qualify, applicants must have a complete membership portal page on the BWEEMS website. For support with this, please fill out this [form](#).