

2015 Young Scholar Enhancement Grant Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Deadline is April 1, 2015

Time frame for projects to take place: June 1 – July 31, 2015

Project Maximum \$4,500

The Southern Region USDA SARE Program (SSARE) is requesting proposals for the enhancement of SSARE Research and Education projects to fund a Young Scholar for the summer of 2015. The Young Scholar Enhancement (YSE) Grant is designed to provide funds to an open R&E project to hire a high school or college student for the summer to participate in the research program in sustainable agriculture. The Southern Region includes: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

A SSARE Young Scholar Enhancement (YSE) project must include an experiential learning component that emphasizes either research and/or extension and immerses the Young Scholar in STEM and social science activities and is intended to heighten the Young Scholars interest in these fields of study related to sustainable agriculture. The hosting institution and/or faculty member will handle and be responsible for any logistics associated with the student's internship experience (i.e. monitor the project to ensure the student is receiving a meaningful experience, track student's work hours, coordinate any field trips to off-site locations, etc.). YSE project proposals can vary widely in discipline exposure, laboratory or field experience, student acceptance standards, expected student outcomes, and internship duration. Each student is expected to prepare a poster presentation detailing their research experience. The poster will be displayed at a SSARE Administrative Council meeting.

General Guidelines:

1. Applicant must have an open and on-going SSARE Research and Education project.
2. Funding for a YSE enhanced program activity is \$3,000. In addition to the \$3,000, \$500 per student is available for the mentor for materials and supplies required solely for the student's experience. If on-campus university housing is requested, a maximum of \$1,000 per student will be added to the funding (this cost is estimated based on 40 nights @ \$25 per night and will vary according to each institution and duration of internship experience).
3. The proposal must demonstrate that the Young Scholar will experience a meaningful educational project related to sustainable agriculture.
4. The YSE funds can be used to support a current college student or a pre-collegiate student.

Proposal Submission:

Refer to the following outline to prepare the request for funding. The proposal package should include the following:

1. **Abstract** (200-250 word limit). How will the funds be used to support a Young Scholar?
2. **Budget:** Use the enclosed budget form and provide a detailed budget narrative to indicate how the funds will be spent.
3. A list of objectives, activities and relevance to the Young Scholar Program. **The maximum length for proposal text is three pages, singled spaced.**

Approval Criteria:

The basis for funding a YSE Grant:

1. Work of the Young Scholar is experiential learning that will result in a research or extension poster that can be displayed at a SSARE Administrative Council meeting.
2. The funds will be used to enhance the existing SSARE Research and Education project.

Eligibility to Compete:

- Must have an existing Research and Education project.
- YSE Grant application must be received by April 1, 2015.

Please send the electronic version by 5:00 PM EST Wednesday, April 1, 2015 to: youngjs@uga.edu. A scanned signature page must be received prior to the awarding of funds.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Jordan at (770) 412-4788, or jjordan@uga.edu

Review Process:

The SSARE Project Review Committee will evaluate proposals and then forward recommendations to the AC Executive Committee for approval. The AC Project Review members represent NGO's, USDA and 1862 and 1890 land grant institutions.

Once the proposal is approved by the SSARE Administrative Council Executive Committee, a contract will be developed between the University of Georgia and the entity submitting the proposal.

Reporting Process:

Annual and final reports on Young Scholar Enhancement grants will be part of the yearly reports for the Research and Education Project.



S-SARE YOUNG SCHOLARS ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

[Creating a pipeline for tomorrow's leaders in Sustainable Agriculture]

S-SARE Young Scholars Enhancement Grant Program

Providing for tomorrow's leaders in sustainable agriculture is at an inflection point. There is a growing public interest in sustainable agriculture and at the same time there is a paucity of collegiate students engaged in sustainable agriculture programs. It is well documented that professional early engagement of students influences their college education and career choices. Therefore the Southern SARE program will offer enhancement grants targeted at attracting freshman and sophomore undergraduate and/or pre-collegiate high school students to pursue college degrees emphasizing sustainable agriculture.

Many of the SARE funded projects are ideally suited for student internship mentoring opportunities. The program emphasizes, but is not limited to, attracting socially disadvantaged minorities that are currently underrepresented in sustainable agriculture careers and professions.

A S-SARE Young Scholar Enhancement (YSE) project must include an experiential learning component that emphasizes either research and/or extension that immerses the Young Scholar in STEM activities and is intended to heighten the Young Scholars interest in these fields of study related to sustainable agriculture. It would be incumbent upon the hosting institution and/or faculty member to handle and be responsible for any logistics associated with the student's internship experience (i.e. monitor the project to ensure the student is receiving a meaningful experience, track student's work hours, coordinate any field trips to off-site locations, etc.). YSE project proposals can vary widely in discipline exposure, laboratory or field experience, student acceptance standards, expected student outcomes, and internship duration. Each student is expected to prepare and submit a poster presentation detailing their research experience. The poster will be presented at a SARE Administrative Council meeting.

Project funds are for Young Scholar salary, materials and supplies to be used for the student program support and student travel expenses. Student salaries are paid to offset jobs that students would otherwise have and need. Funding is made available to cover travel and associated expenses to enrich student experiences. For students requiring residential stay, an additional stipend should be made available to support on-campus university housing during the duration of the SARE YSE.

It is estimated that salary costs for each student for a six week internship experience is approximately \$3,000. In addition to the \$3,000 is up to \$500 per student available to the mentor for materials and supplies required solely for the student experience. If on-campus university housing is requested, a maximum of \$1,000 per student is available (this cost is estimated based on 40 nights @ \$25 per night and would vary according to each institution and duration of internship experience).

**Southern Region SARE
Young Scholar Enhancement Grant Program
2015 Budget**

(up to \$4,500)

Item	SARE Funds
PERSONNEL (up to \$3,000)	
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES (up to \$500)	
STUDENT HOUSING (up to \$1,000)	
Indirect Costs*	
Total Amount of This Request (cannot exceed \$4,500)	

***To calculate IDC, use the IDC rate approved for your existing R&E grant. This amount may be zero (0) if your current award does not include IDC.**

You must provide a detailed budget justification on a separate page to indicate how the above funds will be spent.