



PO BOX 622, Halifax CRO
Halifax, NS B3J 2R7

sableislandfriends.ca
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Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

“Inspired by Sable Island” – Post-Secondary Award 2026

Friends of Sable Island Society, in partnership with Parks Canada, is offering \$500 and a day-trip to Sable Island National Park Reserve to promote learning and awareness of this unique place. This award is available to students who have completed at least one year of post-secondary education and are returning to studies in the fall of 2026.

Sable Island National Park Reserve

Sable Island National Park Reserve is a 40-kilometre stretch of sand located approximately 290 kilometres southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. It is home to many species of animals, sea life, birds and plants, including approximately 500 wild horses, which were introduced sometime shortly after 1738. Many birds, including small numbers of the threatened Roseate Tern, live on the island. It is also the only known breeding ground of the rare Ipswich Sparrow. Sable Island is the largest congregation of breeding Grey Seals and home to a small population of Harbour Seals. More recent discoveries include the endemic Sable Island Sweat Bee.

There has been a continuous human presence on Sable Island since 1801 when the colonial government founded a lifesaving establishment to reduce the loss of life and cargo from the frequent shipwrecks on and near Sable’s shores. In spite of having earned the title “Graveyard of the Atlantic”, the island has been an inspiration to artists of all disciplines – from those who have been fortunate to visit in person to those who feel connected to it from afar.

Award Details

- The “Inspired by Sable Island” Award for 2026 is open to any student who has completed at least one year of post-secondary education and is returning to their studies in the fall of 2026. All areas of study and disciplines are welcome to apply.
- Award includes a day-trip to Sable Island National Park Reserve with Parks Canada on **Wednesday October 7, 2026**, subject to scheduling, operational requirements, and as weather permits.
- Student will be responsible for their own meals, as well as travel arrangements from their place of residence to and from the airport in Halifax on the day of the flight to Sable Island.
- \$500 will be given directly to the student.
- Form of submission is a project proposal detailing what the student plans to do on the Island and how it will contribute to their studies (see Application Information below).

Application Information

- The project proposal must provide enough detail for evaluators to understand the expected on-island experience (approximately five hours), and the longer-lasting potential impacts of this trip. Each proposal will be considered from the perspectives of how it will contribute to the student’s studies and career goals, and how it will benefit Sable Island National Park Reserve. Proposals are typically between 2-8 pages in length.
- The full proposal must include a section titled “Proposal Summary” that identifies the student, their career aspirations, and summarizes what they plan to do on the island.
- Only the “Proposal Summary” section of the winning submission (not the full proposal) will be featured on the website and Facebook pages of Friends of Sable Island and Parks Canada.
- All submissions remain the intellectual property of the students.
- Submissions must be sent in PDF format to scholarships@sableislandfriends.ca by 11:59pm Atlantic Time on Sunday September 20, 2026.
- Submissions must be accompanied by a completed application form (see below) and a letter of support for the proposal from a current professor/teacher at the student’s current post-secondary institution.

Judging

- Viability, creativity, clarity, accuracy, and content will be evaluated.
- The decision of the Review Committee is final.
- The award winner will be contacted by Wednesday September 30, 2026.



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Application Form

Student's Name _____

Student's Phone Number(s) _____

Post-Secondary Institution Attending in Fall 2026 _____

Area of Study/Discipline _____

Title of Proposal _____

Submission Checklist:

- ☐ Proposal: includes enough detail so that evaluators can understand your expected on-island experience (approximately five hours), and the longer-lasting effects of this trip -**and**- a section titled "Proposal Summary" that identifies you (the student), your career aspirations, and what you plan to do on the island and after your trip. (by e-mail in PDF format)
- ☐ Application Form (this page completed, signed and sent by e-mail in PDF format)
- ☐ Letter of Support: a signed letter of recommendation for your proposal from a current professor/teacher at your post-secondary institution (by e-mail in PDF format)

I agree that the section titled "Proposal Summary" in my proposal

Title of Proposal

can be posted by the Friends of Sable Island Society and Parks Canada on their Websites and Facebook pages. I also agree to have my photograph and first and last name posted on the Friends of Sable Island Society and Parks Canada Websites for publicity purposes. I also agree to be registered as a Parks Canada volunteer for the duration of the trip to Sable Island National Park Reserve and to be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the trip to Sable Island National Park Reserve if below the age of 18 at the time of travel.

Signature

Date

_____ (Parent's signature if student is under 18)

Application must be submitted by 11:59pm ADT on Sunday September 20, 2026.

All submission materials except for those of the winning proposal will be destroyed after the award announcement.

NOTE: The day-trip to Sable Island National Park Reserve is subject to scheduling, operational requirements, and as weather permits. The winning applicant will receive the \$500 award even if the day-trip must be cancelled.

Questions and final submissions must be directed to scholarships@sableislandfriends.ca.