ASRA Request for Module Proposals

**Deadline:** October 31, 2015  
**Contact:** Laura Conner ([lconner@alaska.edu](mailto:lconner@alaska.edu)), ASRA Director

**Overview**

The Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA) offers research and problem-based learning experiences to students in grades 6-12. Students focus on one area of study (through a module) over the course of two weeks and complete individual or group research projects. Modules are designed to be fun and engaging, while containing challenging content. All are set in a context that will interest students. There are no exams, grades, or homework. ASRA experiences should be hands-on, with very little lecturing. Goals include building interest in STEM and exposing students to a college setting.

ASRA is seeking proposals for modules for the summer of 2016. Instructor teams develop and teach the content of a module (there are 8-10 students per module). We encourage instructors to think broadly—modules can be focused on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, engineering, math, or may be interdisciplinary. Some modules take place in remote areas. Examples of past modules are Marine Biology (on the Kenai Peninsula), Biomedicine, Engineering Design, Denali Geographic, Veterinary Medicine, and others.

Instructor teams may be comprised of faculty, post-docs, graduate students, K-12 teachers, or other professionals in the STEM fields. If you are a researcher interested in working with a K-12 teacher, ASRA staff may be able to connect you to an interested teacher. Conversely, if you are a teacher interested in ASRA, we may be able to connect you with interested researchers.

**ASRA logistics**

In 2016, there will be a single ASRA, held from July 18-29. There will be separate module offerings for middle and high school students. ASRA 2016 will be a day camp only (no housing is offered). Instructors teach from 9AM-5PM daily (with weekend off). A module could include a REMOTE component for all or part of the program. The final day of ASRA, July 29, students present their work in a public forum, with a pizza lunch. July 28 is devoted to preparing for presentations and cleaning up supplies.
ASRA provides pay for two instructors (at least two instructors are required), a supply budget (usually a maximum of $1000), mentoring, and logistical support. Instructor pay is $2500 for lead instructors and $2000 for assistant instructors, which covers prep time, instruction time, training, and meetings (teams may be composed of two lead instructors or 1 lead and 1 assistant instructor).

To propose a module, please provide a 2-page summary that includes the following information:

1) A proposed module title that will appeal to students
2) A description of the module, including sample activities
3) Learning goals of proposed module, and science content that will be covered
4) A budget, detailing supplies needed (limit is usually $1000. Note: ASRA-owned supplies and equipment are available for use—contact us for details)
5) Names, contact information, and qualifications of the proposed instructors (Two instructors are required for each module). Please include any experience or familiarity with hands-on or problem-based learning techniques.
6) Any in-kind support that can be offered (e.g., salary support, specialized equipment, etc.)
7) Special logistical needs (remote camp, vans for field trips, etc.)
8) Whether you would like to request Saturday, July 23, as an additional day of instruction (note that most modules will not meet on Saturday, but please indicate if you have a need to do so).
9) Please indicate whether your module will be for middle school (grades 6-8) or high school (grades 9-12) students.

Submit your proposal by October 31, 2015, to Laura Conner, ASRA Director (ldconner@alaska.edu).

Please visit our website (www.uaf.edu/asra) for more information about the program. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.