

OTTO WILLIAM GEIST FUND 2026 GUIDELINES



BACKGROUND:

The O. W. Geist Fund was established by Otto Geist in 1963 for the purposes of:

- Acquisitions of archaeological, ethnological, or paleontological material for the University.
- Financing in whole or in part expeditions for archaeological, ethnological, or paleontological field research.
- Fellowship grants for students majoring in anthropology (archaeology) or paleontology.

The Geist Fund Committee, created by the Geist Endowment, has sole power, authority, and responsibility for the execution of the terms of the bequest and may act on its own authority as to the emphasis of awards during any given time period, normally once per calendar year.

GUIDELINES: When evaluating student proposals, the following criteria shall apply:

1. Preference will be given to projects that enhance UA Museum collections through new acquisitions, conservation and research.
2. Preference will be given to proposals that match Geist funds with other sources of funding.
3. For graduating seniors or graduating Master's students, priority will be given to those continuing in UAF graduate programs.
4. Preference will be given to Ph.D. students who have advanced to candidacy and M.A. students who have passed their comprehensives exams.
5. Students who were not previously funded at their current academic level will be given preference.
6. All decisions rendered by the Geist Fund Committee regarding awards are final and appeals will not be considered.
7. Submissions for projects already completed by the applicant will not be considered.
8. Proposals which require or anticipate the collection of specimens, cultural items, or samples must specify that all such specimens and samples will be accessioned into the University of Alaska Museum Collections or have a written waiver from curator.
9. Each applicant is required to have a sponsoring UA Fairbanks faculty member who will be responsible for academic oversight of the project and ensure the appropriate expenditure of funds.
10. The disposition of equipment (such as a computer) purchased with Geist funds after completion of the project will be decided upon by the Geist Fund Committee and the faculty sponsor.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

1. The application deadline is **March 27th, 2026**. Please submit the the following documents as part of a single PDF via email:
 - a. Application form (including signature of sponsoring faculty member) **and** proposal
 - b. Copy of appropriate permits (or application for permit), if applicable
 - c. Permission letter from curator of designated repository
 - d. Letter of sponsorship and recommendation by UAF faculty member
2. Please submit your application electronically to the Geist Fund Chair (see below).
3. All materials or information must be submitted at one time. **Incomplete packets will not be accepted.**
4. Applicants are reminded that a good proposal is a self-contained unit which provides all of the information necessary for reviewers to adequately evaluate a proposal. Proposals should include project description, purpose, procedure, and budget (including amount, source, and use of other funds).

REPORTING:

1. A **final report**, including a financial report on supported projects, must be submitted by **April 13th, 2027**. The final report should include an abstract, results/outcomes of Geist Fund-supported work, and how these results contribute to the study/project as a whole.

QUESTIONS? Geist Fund Chair: **Dr. Joshua Reuther**, University of Alaska Museum Archaeology Curator, jreuther@alaska.edu