The purpose of the Begole Archaeological Research Grant (BARG) Program is to support scientific research in Colorado Desert District parks and the immediately surrounding area.

BARG Applicant Guidelines

Eligibility
Applicants may be staff of California State Parks, registered undergraduate or graduate students, faculty and/or titled researchers at academic institutions, staff of private-sector or government-sector cultural resource management entities, or independent scholars.

Project Focus
There are no restrictions on the topics of the research proposals, as long as they are cultural in scope and/or focus. However, priority will be given to original research dealing with the earliest periods of prehistory.

In no case will a grant be awarded for work, supplies, or equipment that would fall under the usual scope of California State Parks management or fiscal responsibilities.

Award Timeline
The deadline for proposal submissions is the final week in May of each year. The Committee meets in June of each year to review grant proposals and determine the grant(s) to be awarded. The CDD Superintendent will review the decision(s) of the BARG Committee before awards are made. Applicants will be notified by the end of June.

Obligations of Grant Recipients
The award of the grant(s) will be contingent upon a letter of agreement from the landowner where the project will be conducted, be it private or government land(s). If a grant is awarded, the grantee will be responsible for securing the necessary permits for work from the appropriate entity, be it federal, state, county, city, or private. No funds will be awarded until proof of permitting has been submitted to the appropriate entity.

Each investigator will pledge to share the information obtained from the supported research with the archaeological community and the public through publication, lecture, or other media, including at an educational event sponsored by ABDSP Begole Archaeological Research Center, if feasible.

Proposal Requirements
Proposals may be submitted by those who are interested in pursuing research in some phase of prehistory or history within the CDD parks, in areas bordering the parks, in the immediately surrounding area (see attached map for research area limitations), or elsewhere in the Colorado or Mojave Deserts. All proposed research should have application to the archaeology of the Colorado Desert District parks; this application should be explained in the research proposal.
The proposal should consist of a summary of the goal(s) of the research or the need for specific research-oriented equipment; a statement of why this research or equipment is important to scientific archaeology; and an explanation of how the research, equipment, or product will meet the needs of the CDD Cultural Resources program. A detailed budget explaining how the funds will be used will be an integral part of the proposal. The grant applicants will present a timeline for project execution and completion and a description of the final product.

The proposal should be appropriately scoped for the amount of funding requested. The applicant should state specifically the research questions to be addressed in the proposal. The applicant should mention the theoretical framework under which the research will be conducted. A short, but pertinent bibliography should be included so that the Committee is aware that the applicant has a grasp of the problem(s) to be addressed. The research should not repeat what has been done before.

Grant applicants must present with their proposal a full Curriculum Vitae and at least three references who will be able to provide to the Committee an evaluation of the applicant’s standing in the scientific community, the ability of the applicant to complete projects in a timely manner, and other matters which may be of concern to the Committee, dependent on the particular research proposal.

In the development of the research proposal, all applicants should keep the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society and California State Parks Mission Statements and policies in mind. Of particular interest to the BARG program is that the 2007 California State Parks Operations Notice 2007-05 be followed concerning Native American Consultation Policy & Implementation Procedures in all cases where it is applicable.

Grant Selection Committee
The BARG Committee is composed of a minimum of five members: Colorado Desert District (CDD) archaeologist, member of the Anza Borrego Foundation (ABF) Board of Directors or an appointee by the Board, the Chair of the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society (CDAS), a representative from the archaeological private sector, and a representative from the archaeological academic sector. The committee may call on other knowledgeable persons or experts to sit on the committee ex officio. All committee members serve without compensation.