

Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Zeta Day at the Refuge: An Immersive Experience for High School Students

Begin answering in the shaded box right beside or below each question and it will expand to accommodate as you type. Use up to a total of two and a half pages for questions 1-8. More detailed presentations, a final report, articles or posters are welcome separately (See final instructions at the end of this form.)*

1. Organization name or Individual who received the grant: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Omega Alpha Zeta Chapter

2. Amount of Grant: \$ \$1,409.00

4. Was additional outside funding obtained? (check box that applies) Yes No

Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes." Albuquerque BLESS fund - will be used for the Spring 2024 event

5. Briefly, how was the grant money from the Carter Conservation Fund used?

All costs for the event were covered by the Carter fund, so thank you! We purchased healthy lunches, snacks, and transportation as our major costs. Below is a complete budget. Some of the actualized expenses were zero due to donations.

Zeta Day at the Refuge Budget			
Item	Description	Budget Cost	Actual
Lunch Expenses			
50/50 Coffeehouse Lunches	\$14 per attendee (gluten free & veggie options) personal sandwich, chips, side salad, dessert, & drink plus tax	\$759.14	\$469.20
Snacks and Water	Costco bottle water and snacks	\$40.00	\$20.27
Lunch location	Sevilleta Field Station SWERF dining room rental	\$55.00	\$0.00
Vehicle Expenses			
12 passenger van rental	Avis Sunport 7:30AM-7PM with insurance	\$330.91	\$50.00
12 passenger van rental	Hertz Sunport 7:30AM-7PM with insurance	\$240.28	\$0.00
12 passenger van rental	Hertz Sunport 7:30AM-7PM with insurance	\$240.28	\$261.22
12 passenger van rental	Hertz Sunport 7:30AM-7PM with insurance	\$240.28	\$256.18
Additional Driver	Addition 1 driver per day per reservation		\$13.50
Van gas	110 miles roundtrip x 3 vans at 14 mpg x \$3.47 per gal	\$81.79	\$59.72
Tour Expenses			
	WinBridge Portable Voice Amplifier with Microphone	\$55.98	\$50.98
	HDX First Aid Kit	\$25.00	\$0.00
Thank You Gifts			
Tour Guide & Rangers	5 Thermos Cups		\$49.67
Tour Guide & Rangers	<u>3 plant presses</u>	\$128.65	\$77.97
Attendee Gift Bags	<u>Donated herbarium stickers + outdoor stickers</u>	\$4.99	\$4.99
Tax	Tax on above orders from Amazon		\$11.16
Attendee Gift Bags	Sevilleta Postcards + donated pens		\$18.75
Dollar Tree Misc	Ribbon, name tags, 40 clear bags, 3 gift bags		\$8.75
Attendee Field Guide	Field notebook printing cost ~\$2 for 45	\$90.00	\$0.00
	Total Cost		\$1,352.36

6. Write an abstract or summary of the activities performed and the progress that was made this year on your project. (Save any conclusions, lessons learned, and benefits achieved for the final sections, 7&8.)

Through the Carter Grant, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Omega Alpha Zeta Chapter partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Sevillea Long Term-Ecological Monitoring Research station to coordinate a landmark event focused on environmental stewardship, inclusivity, career exposure, and reclaiming Black relationships with nature. This full day program occurred on June 9, 2023. This initiative was to counter historical exclusions and emphasize cultural engagement with the natural world. By leveraging partnerships and receiving funding, we were able to remove financial barriers for attendees by offering a free excursion with binoculars provided, nourishment, and exposure to wildlife plus exclusive scientific experiments that are closed to the public.

7. How does your project further a Native Plant Society mission area, namely: *plant or ecological education; conservation/restoration of native plants and/or their habitats; adds to botanical research; promotes appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land and/or wildlife.*

At Zeta Day at the Sevillea National Wildlife Refuge, attendees visited long-term scientific experiments that are not open to the public, saw an unprecedented amount of wildlife and flora including Oryx, pronghorn antelope, and western kingbirds, as well as did a hands-on activity to collect plants to be housed in the Sevillea herbarium. The Sevillea National Wildlife Refuge is one of the few places in the country that also has long-term experiments on the refuge. Through visiting experiments that are long-term, attendees gained valuable insights on the magnitude of experiments necessary to understand how our environment will respond to climate change. We selected experiments that sported drastic visible differences in their plant communities to be explained by our tour guide so attendees could see the effect of the treatments without looking at measurement data. In addition to the immediate impact this event had on participants, the herbarium hands on activity allowed these individuals to be recorded in history as their collection will be housed permanently. Through our partnership with Helena Mieras, the Sevillea Herbarium's 700+ plant collection was annotated and digitized to be made publicly available. She designed a curriculum, which was implemented for the first time at our event, and will be used in perpetuity. Each attendee received a booklet highlighting the workflow that the attendees applied to produce their own herbarium plant collection.

8. Any other conclusions., lessons learned, benefits to you, the community or the environment hopefully result from your work as assisted by this grant.

Our attendees were able to engage with an all femme presenting panel of USFWS leadership that was dominated by people of color. The panel specifically showcased the intentionality of Zeta's national partnership with the USFWS to reclaim outdoor spaces and provide career pipeline to institute systemic change. It was especially enjoyed by our participants because of the rarity of seeing women, non-binary, and people of color in positions of leadership in the USFWS. This was no accident. We specifically asked women, LGBTQIA+, and Black USFWS and SEV LTER guides to participate.

Final Instructions

Please send your completed form as pdf as an email attachment to cartergrantapps@gmail.com by December 1.

** To remain in good standing for any future funding from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, we ask that you educate our membership more fully in some way. This could be an article (250 words minimum, at least 1 high resolution illustration or photo) for our newsletter, **or** a paper or electronic copy or link to a published article connected with the past year's work, **or** by making an educational and visual presentation to one of our chapters. Contact information for our 7 area chapters is found on our website at www.npsnm.org under the Chapters tab.*

What are your intentions in this regard? I will include our newsletter write up and photos to the Albuquerque chapter.

This year end report is submitted by (Type your name) Maya Shamsid-Deen

My typed name is equal to my handwritten signature in testifying to the accuracy and truth of this report to the best of my knowledge today.

eMail address omegaphazetapresident@gmail.com

Date November 29, 2023

Please contact us again at cartergrantapps@gmail.com if you have any questions or alternate suggestions.