



## CATHY AND JIM GERO ACADIA EARLY-CAREER FELLOWSHIP IN SCIENCE RESEARCH

Through the continued generous support of Catherine and James Gero, the National Park Service, Schoodic Institute, and the National Park Foundation, we invite applications for a 10-month early-career Science Research Fellowship. The Science Research Fellow will join a cohort with Science Communication and Environmental Science Education fellows; each working independently on discipline-specific initiatives and collaboratively on interdisciplinary projects.

The Science Research Fellow will engage in management-focused research across Acadia, such as monitoring seasonal bird populations, assessing biodiversity, working with resource managers, and engaging park visitors in science learning. Based on research priorities, the fellow will lead ongoing research related to bird populations and habitat conservation and restoration, including field data collection, data analysis, and synthesis. Work may take place in intertidal, forest, and wetland habitats in Acadia National Park and surrounding areas. The Research Fellow is expected to participate in science communication assignments by contributing to social media posts, creating content for the Schoodic Institute and National Park Service websites, and attending or presenting at Schoodic events such as lectures, symposia, and fundraisers.

**Start date:** Monday, March 30th, 2026

**End date:** Friday, January 29th, 2027

**Reports to:** Science Engagement Coordinator, with additional supervision from National Park Service and Schoodic Institute staff.

**Compensation:** The Fellowship offers an hourly rate of \$20.75, based on a 40-hour work week. In addition to the hourly wage, partial benefits provided include Paid Time Off and access to Professional Development opportunities.

### Fellowship Requirements:

- Experience with the identification of eastern birds by sight and sound
- Experience with entering, organizing, analyzing (R), and interpreting data
- Willingness to periodically travel or camp to complete field assignments
- Comfortable working alone in the field with proper safety precautions
- Bachelor's degree in an applicable field of science with a graduation date within the past 3 years
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Strong work ethic and ability to plan work schedule effectively
- Enthusiasm for learning, science, and conservation
- Ability to learn and follow protocols accurately
- Keen interest in pursuing a career in conservation
- Ability to embrace working outdoors in a variety of conditions (e.g., weather, terrain, diverse habitats)
- Must have permanent authorization for US employment
- Must have a valid driver's license

### Employment Details:

The fellow will be a temporary employee of Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, earning an hourly salary and working 40 hours per week. Each fellowship will last for up to 43 weeks (~10 months). Daily and weekly



work schedules may fluctuate. Work days can be up to 14 hours long. In some instances, such as intertidal work during low tide, work days may be split into morning and evening work. At times work will begin at dawn and go through dusk. Work hours will include some weekends.

**Location:**

The fellow's primary work location is on the Schoodic Institute campus in Winter Harbor, Maine, on the Schoodic Peninsula. Field work will occur throughout Acadia National Park and surrounding locations within a 1-3 hour drive. At times, camping may be required to complete field work off of the Schoodic Peninsula.

Residence is required and provided on the Schoodic Institute campus. Our standard arrangement is to place all staff in single-occupancy bedrooms within shared apartments. Our preference and intention are to maintain single occupancy. In extremely rare, unforeseen circumstances or emergencies, a temporary, short-term need for double-occupancy (in two-bed bedrooms) may be required

Note that the nearest city with full services, Ellsworth, is a 45-minute drive away. Although not required, personal transportation is highly recommended. The Schoodic Institute campus is beautiful and quaint, but it can also feel isolating at times. Applicants should be prepared to embrace both the bustling summer and the quieter winter.

**About Schoodic Institute:**

Established in 2004, [Schoodic Institute](#) at Acadia National Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Acadia National Park's primary partner in science and education. Based at the largest of 17 National Park Service Research Learning Centers in Winter Harbor, Maine, in Wabanaki homeland, Schoodic Institute's focus is understanding environmental change taking place in Acadia and beyond, and helping managers of parks and other protected areas respond and adapt to change while engaging people of all ages in science. Schoodic Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**To apply:**

Please note that each applicant can apply for only one of the three fellowship opportunities: Science Research Fellowship, Environmental Science Education Fellowship, or Science Communication Fellowship.

If you would like to view the other Acadia Early Career Fellowship opportunities, you can view the descriptions of the Science Communication and Environmental Science Education Fellow positions on the Schoodic hiring page.

To apply, visit the online application portal [here](#). The application includes uploading a resume and a cover letter.

**Application Deadline:** Tuesday, January 6th, 2026