

Request for Proposals (RFP): Research Scholar

Project Title: Indigenous Peoples and the Revolutionary War – Chesapeake/Tidewater Region Case Study

Issuing Organization: Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park

Date of Issuance: January 23, 2026

Proposal Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026

Contract Period: March 2026 – April 30, 2027

Project Completion Date: March 1, 2027

1. Introduction and Background

Schoodic Institute is seeking a qualified Research Scholar (Consultant) to produce an original, chapter-length case study examining Indigenous experiences in the **Chesapeake/Tidewater region** during the American Revolutionary era.

Funded through a federal grant, this initiative supports the National Park Service (NPS) in expanding the historical narrative of the American Revolution to include tribal perspectives, agency, and the conflict's long-term significance for Indigenous Nations.

Key Objectives:

- **Tribal Engagement & Consultation:** In collaboration with the Principal Investigator (PI) and Project Manager, the Scholar will engage Tribal Nations within the Chesapeake/Tidewater region (part of NPS Interior Region 1 [Maine to West Virginia]). This involves convening focus groups to identify significant themes, consequential figures, and pivotal events from the perspectives of the Nations themselves.
- **Methodological Framework:** The resulting 60–80 page (15,000–20,000 word) case study must be grounded in the theories, methods, and sources of **Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS)**.
- **Institutional Integration:** The Scholar will coordinate with the PI to ensure the regional case study integrates seamlessly into the broader *Historical Context Study*, scheduled for finalization in early 2027.
- **Support & Logistics:** The National Park Service (NPS) will facilitate introductions to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) and Cultural Heritage offices. Where appropriate, NPS will provide site access for gatherings and dialogues between Tribal Citizens and historians.
- **Ethical Standards:** All work must adhere to strict protocols regarding **Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)** and **Indigenous Data Sovereignty**, respecting the specific guidance and privacy requirements of individual sovereign Nations.

2. Scope of Work

The selected Consultant will conduct original research and produce a case study examining the experiences, contributions, and impacts of Indigenous peoples in the Chesapeake/Tidewater region during the era of the American Revolution.

Research and Consultation Phase:

- **Expert Consultation:** Convene and facilitate a focus group of Indigenous experts and Tribal representatives. The Consultant will solicit guidance on identifying significant themes, consequential figures, sacred or historic sites, and pivotal events. This group will also advise on the prioritization of research areas to ensure cultural sensitivity and historical accuracy. Please note that remuneration of focus group members will be handled separately and should not be included in the proposed project budget.
- **Primary and Secondary Research:** Conduct extensive primary source research (archival, recorded oral histories, etc.) and a comprehensive secondary literature review. Research must bridge local and regional history with the broader context of the American Revolution.

Content Development and Integration:

- **Thematic Alignment:** In collaboration with the Principal Investigator (PI), the Consultant shall ensure the case study aligns with the overarching project framework. This includes exploring intersections with:
 - Environmental history and Indigenous land stewardship.
 - The roles and agency of Indigenous women.
 - Military service and strategic alliances.
 - Political engagement with the Continental Congress and emerging American government.
- **Structural Consistency:** Participate in monthly progress meetings with the PI to provide research updates and ensure the chapter outline and organizational structure remain consistent with the broader multi-study project.

Peer Review and Feedback

- **Validation Presentation:** Facilitate at least one formal presentation of the draft research to the Indigenous expert focus group. The Consultant is responsible for documenting, addressing, and integrating feedback into the final manuscript to ensure community perspectives are accurately represented.
- **Deliverables and Timeline:**

The Consultant must adhere to the following production schedule:

Deliverable	Description	Deadline
Full Draft Manuscript	A 15,000–20,000 word draft for peer review and National Park Service (NPS) internal review	December 1, 2026

Final Case Study	A polished, publication-ready manuscript including all revisions	April 1, 2027
Supporting Materials	A comprehensive bibliography and a curated selection of exemplary primary source documents.	April 1, 2027

3. Period of Performance

The contract is expected to cover **12 to 16 months**, with all deliverables and closure activities completed no later than April 30, 2027.

4. Submission Guidelines

Proposals must include the following components:

1. Technical Proposal:

- A narrative describing the approach to the Scope of Work.
- A proposed timeline aligned with the April 2027 completion date.

2. Qualifications & Experience:

- Advanced degree (Master's, Ph.D. (preferred)) in humanities or social sciences. Scholarly background in Native American and Indigenous Studies.
- Evidence of experience initiating, developing, and managing historical and interdisciplinary research in Indian Country utilizing a range of primary sources including (but not limited to) documentary sources, material culture, landscape and built environment, oral histories and oral traditions.
- Demonstrated experience producing scholarly articles, book chapters, and/or published reports about Tribal Nations in the study region.
- A portfolio of successful projects grounded in engagement with Indigenous communities and tribal nations.
- Demonstrated commitment to Indigenous lands and peoples, specifically through partnering with local experts and protecting Indigenous cultural and intellectual property.
- Demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively on scholarly projects.

3. Cost Proposal:

- A detailed budget and cost breakdown for the research project and case study development.

4. Supporting documents and references:

- Writing sample: recently published report, scholarly article, or book chapter
- Contact information for three references

5. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the factors listed below. In accordance with federal guidelines, the relative importance of each factor is identified.

- **Relevant Experience & Qualifications (40%):** Depth of research experience in Indian Country, federal project leadership, and engagement with Indigenous communities.
- **Technical Approach (30%):** Clarity, feasibility, and quality of the proposed project management methodology and work plan.
- **Past Performance (15%):** Success of prior similar projects and commitment to partnering with local experts.
- **Price (15%):** Cost-effectiveness and reasonableness of the proposed budget.

Note: Awards will be made to the responsible entity whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

6. Submission Instructions

Please submit your proposal in **PDF format** to search@SchoodicInstitute.org by **5:00 pm Eastern Time, Friday, February 20, 2026.**

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