The high school program is an opportunity for 10 high school students to spend a week in the Great Smoky Mountains learning nature photography from top nature photographers. The week’s agenda typically includes sessions on topics you’d expect such as composition, camera settings and shutter speed.
2018 NANPA High School Scholarship Program

NANPA’s program goes far beyond the basics by teaching students how to photograph ethically and to be aware of how their presence impacts their subjects. Students also learn about post-production techniques. They utilize their photos taken in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to create a story that they present at the end of the week.

View the presentations

Photo by Tom Haxby
2018 NANPA High School Scholarship Program – Leaders & Participants

Leaders of the 2018 program were Morgan Heim, Steven David Johnson and Kika Tuff in addition to Tom Haxby, Todd Pierson, Todd Amacker and JP Lawrence who served as pros for the day.

High School Participants Included:
Andrea Basta – Pennsylvania
Hannah Bienemann - Illinois
Spencer Caserio – California
Seth Delavega - Ohio
Eddie Kasper – Illinois
Ankit Kumar – Singapore
Max Nichols – California
Jake Parker – California
Sarah Walker - Florida
Cara Welch - Illinois

Photo by 2018 High School Program
Participant Eddie Kasper
Mac Stone was named the recipient of the 2018 Philip Hyde Grant and received $2,500 to help with his "Old Growth: Ancient Swamps of the South" project.

Stone's work is centered in three of the most biodiverse and ecologically rich swamps in the U.S.: Corkscrew Swamp in Naples, FL; Congaree National Park near Columbia, SC; and Beidler Forest near Charleston, SC. His goal for studying these relatively unknown swamps is to heighten the profile and increase the appreciation for and understanding of all wetland forests through the compelling narratives found in these ambassadorial swamps.
The NANPA Foundation’s $1,000 Janie Moore Greene grant was awarded at the end of 2018 to Jake Brown Homovich. He recently began his graduate program studies in photography at the Maine Salt Institute for Documentary Studies at the Maine College of Art.

Brown Homovich is from Downsville, New York.
2018 Photo Blind Grants

The NANPA Foundation awards grants up to $1,500 to build photo blinds in public, natural areas.

Photo blind being built in Tio & Janell Kleberg Wildlife Park
Photo by Brian Loftin
Grants to build two photo blinds in the Tio & Janell Kleberg Wildlife Park were approved in December 2018. One blind is for morning photography and the other is for evening photography in the Park. The primary purpose of the blinds is for student education (as the project is a joint venture with Texas A&M University-Kingsville), but includes a component for public access and education.
A grant to help build a photo blind in Garey Park was awarded to the Good Water Master Naturalist organization. Garey Park is a new city park in Georgetown and the area in which the blind is being built includes a water feature to attract birds and a butterfly garden for additional photographic opportunities.
Ignoring all of the Las Vegas lights, glitz and even some rare snow, twelve college students spent an intensive week learning about nature photography, videography and storytelling to produce a marketing video for the Clark County (Nevada) Wetlands Park.
These students spent the first three days of the program photographing, interviewing and shooting video followed by three days of learning at the 2019 Nature Photography Summit & Trade Show in Las Vegas and countless hours of late-night video editing.

The program involves instruction and mentoring from professional nature photographers onsite, too.

Photo by Jon Holloway
2019 NANPA Summit College Scholarship Program

Mentors and instructors included Michele Westmorland, Matthew Cicanese, Alena Ebeling-Schuld, Jon Holloway, Ted Keller, JP Lawrence and Ryan Trenkamp.

Participating students included:
Jocelyn Dowdy - University of Southern Nevada
Geena Hill - University of Florida
Ashton Hooker - University of Wyoming
Katey Ladika - Robert Morris University
Nicole Landry - Ryerson University
Jordan Larson - Syracuse University
Michael McGuire - University of Vermont
Bryce Merrill - University of Southern California
Eva Prendergast - Darwin College
Heather Stewart - McGill University
Jiayu Su - University of Prince Edward Island
Riley Swartzendruber - Eastern Mennonite University

Photo by Jon Holloway
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