Name: Andrew Davison

Institution and Class: Centre College, Class of 2025

Project Title: American Pilgrimage and Craftsmanship: A Study of Road Trips as Religion and Woodworking as Wisdom

Date of Application: Please enter submission date here.

Total Project Amount: $5,778.75

JGBF Total Award: $5,778.75 (This should be the amount of funding requested from JGBF, which may or may not be the same as the total project cost.)

Does your proposal include a program (e.g., study abroad, volunteer organization, or other third-party entity)? If so, please provide the following information:

Vendor Name: Center for Furniture Craftsmanship

Contact: If applicable, please enter the name of your contact.

Application Deadline: If applicable, please select a date.

Expected Date of Acceptance/Notification: Please select a date.

You may also include any relevant supporting documents or web links (e.g., with information describing programs for which you plan to apply to).

https://woodschool.org/courses-programs/woodworking-workshops/basic-woodworking/

**Project Dates**

Start: 5/22/2023

End: 6/17/2023

**Project Location**

City: Rockport, Maine (All other locations are in national forests or parks)

State: Georgia, Tennesse, Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine

Country: United States of America

Project Advisor: (Note: this must be a faculty member whose relevance to your project is demonstrable and with whom you meet to discuss your project.)

**Brown Fellows**

**Enrichment Proposal Form**

Project Abstract:

Over the course of a two week road trip along the Appalachian Trail and a two week workshop at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, I will investigate the roles that both experiences play in a larger American context. In particular, I intend to examine how road trips and work, in this case woodworking, parallel aspects of normative religions. Using the lens of religion can illuminate the way that we interact with American nationalism by forcing us to reconsider the unconscious biases that arise from the effects of American culture. I will compare driving the Appalachian Trail to a form of religious pilgrimage and my time learning woodworking – in general, a form of work in American capitalist society -- to devotional aspects of religion.

**Please respond to the following questions:**

1. Describe the enrichment project you are proposing (i.e., **what** will you be doing). Be as specific as possible.

I will begin my project by spending two weeks driving the length of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. I will travel a few hours each day, and then camp at a national or state park or forest for the night. This begins in the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia, then goes to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennesse, then Mount Rogers National Recreation Area in Virginia, then Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, then Cunningham Falls State Park in Maryland, then Beartown State Forest in Massachusetts, then Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont, then White Mountain National Forest in Nerw Hampshire, then finally Acadia National Park in Maine. During the trip, I will be reading American transcendentalist, naturalist, and Appalchian writings to survey how American culture depicts and interacts with nature and the Appalachian trail. Next, I will spend two weeks learning basic woodworking at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship. This workshop includes daily lectures, instruction, and activities, and focuses on a more traditional, hand skill focused woodworking technique. I will continue my readings, and I will conduct interviews with some of the people who run the school on their relationship with woodworking and instruction. Through these interviews, I hope to get a better insight into a traditional craft reflects the development of American work culture. Later, I will compare these experiences with aspects of normative religions.

1. Discuss the significance of your proposed project in the context of your academic program, personal development (including extracurricular activities and non-BFP activities), career goals (as they stand today), and your previous enrichment activities.

At Centre College, I am a religion major, and I am particularly interested in the scope of religion. That is, how religion goes beyond what people generally consider as normative religions, and how interrogating our lives through the lens of faith and dedication can teach us how to better live our lives. I believe that I will be able to do that with this project. Additionally, I see the woodworking course as an opportunity for personal development in one of my hobbies and as a potential part of my career. I will spend the rest of my summer at a software development internship – Computer Science is my other major at Centre – and in the interest of having a well-rounded and diverse education, I see this project as a way to balance my time between personal development and interests with my project and career goals with my internship.

1. The James Graham Brown Foundation established the Brown Fellows Program to build leadership capability and invest in the intellectual capital of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.  Please describe how your project reflects and/or will contribute to the purpose of the Brown Fellows Program.

Although the Appalachian Trail does not pass through Kentucky, the cultural ethos surrounding the region of Appalachia has deep implications for the entire state. I have found, as someone from Appalachia, that those cultural conceptions are rarely positive. A secondary goal of my method of analysis, of comparing American nationalism and culture to religion, is to confront biases that people may have about both the Appalachian regions and America in general. I hope that through this project, I can use a new academic lens to critically consider the national perspective on Kentucky and the Appalachian region in general.

1. The Brown Fellows Program emphasizes the importance of critical thinking and provides opportunities for experiential learning. Please reflect on how your previous BFP enrichment activities—LeaderShape/Eudaimonia and service week, the group international trip, and/or a previous enrichment project—have incorporated these ideas. Has your educational philosophy changed as a result of these experiences and, if so, how? What contributions have these previous activities made toward achieving your goals?

My experience on the group international trip has taught me a lot about organizing my own projects and managing myself away from systems of support. Of course, my project will be another degree further, but I anticipate that my experience away from my comfort zone will be invaluable. During my service work at the Olmstead Parks system in Louisville, I learned a lot about plant identification and respecting nature that I continued into the year, and I look forward to revitalizing this interest as I spend extensive time in the national and state parks systems.

**The budget worksheet located on the BFP Network should be used to develop your budget and should include relevant citations and explanations as a reference with your proposal. Using the numbers from the budget worksheet, complete the itemized budget on the next page. Note that the itemized budget should *not* include citations or explanations. To enter numbers in the Excel insert below, right click anywhere on the budget sheet and select “Macro-Enabled Worksheet Object” 🡪 “Open”. This will open a new window in Excel. Simply close it once you are finished, and the numbers will automatically populate. Please note that all category totals are calculated automatically.**



**Cost Differential**

**If the cost of the project is greater than the maximum JGBF Award ($6,000), please provide a short explanation of how the balance will be funded.**

Please explain (100 words)

**Authorizing Signatures—Your project cannot gain approval without these!**

Your enrichment project will not be considered without these, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain these signatures prior to submission of the application to the foundation. Please note that submission of an application does not guarantee approval. Any and all funding will be awarded at the discretion of the James Graham Brown Foundation.

**Student Accuracy and Authenticity Pledge:**

By signing this document, I certify that I have done the appropriate research, that I have cited my sources where possible and that this proposal and budget are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Brown Fellow Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Class Mentor and Program Coordinator Signatures:**

By signing this document, I certify that I have reviewed and approve of this proposal, and that I have verified that the student has received all necessary clearances from their faculty advisor and, if applicable, the International Center.

Class Mentor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Program Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**JGBF Program Director Signature:**

By signing this document, I certify that I have reviewed and approve of this proposal, and that it has been reviewed and has received the approval of the JGBF Chief Financial Officer.

Program Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_