

Budget projection: Scholarship Workshop 2023

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Parameters

Here are a few key parameters that are used to create different scenarios for the budget projection:

Parameter	Possibilities	Label
Number of participants	about 5	5
	between 5 and 20	5-20
	about 20	20
Degree of venue accomodations	tent/rustic	tent
	cabins and common shower/bathrooms	cabin
	full house amenities, bedrooms, kitchen, bathrooms	house
Venue location class with respect to human geography	rural, >2 hour drive to train or air transportation hub, >30 minute drive to grocery supply	rural
	between rural and urban	suburban
	urban, no car needed to obtain basic services or food, or to reach train or air transportation hub	urban

The duration is assumed to be 8 weeks, tentatively May 29 - July 21, 2023.

Cost list

Cost category		Specifier	Cost estimate (\$)	Date needed
Venue	1	5 and tent	1500.00	
	2	5 and cabin	2400.00	
	3	5 and house	11000.00	
	4	5-20 and tent	3000.00	
	5	5-20 and cabin	6400.00	
	6	5-20 and house	18000.00	
	7	20 and tent	3000.00	
	8	20 and cabin	12800.00	
	9	20 and house	20000.00	
	10	house	200.00	
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Food	11	5	3000.00	
	12	5-20	9000.00	
	13	20	12000.00	
prep materials, appliances...	14	tent	3450.00	
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Internet	15		240.00	
inaccessibility markup	16	rural	240.00	
inaccessibility markup	17	tent	160.00	
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Electricity	18	house	500.00	
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Books/articles	19		1500.00	
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Transportation	20	5	1500.00	
	21	5-20	4500.00	
	22	20	6000.00	
	23	rural or suburban	710.00	
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Stipend	24	5	2500.00	
	25	5-20	7500.00	
	26	20	10000.00	
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Visitors / guest speakers	27		3000.00	
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Emergency contingency	28		1000.00	
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Start-up fund	29		10000.00	

Cost estimate explanations/assumptions

1. We can use my lot and tiny cabin in Otisville NY for free. Alternatively, we may find a willing landowner of a more advantageous site for about \$250/month, and perhaps even move my cabin to the site for something like \$500 and a weekend's labor. There will also be some costs for the tent or tents themselves and camping gear, perhaps \$500.
2. 1 cabin in a state park would do. There are hundreds of cabins in New York state parks, typically with capacity for 4-6 people per cabin, ranging from about \$250 to \$600 per week. See [here](#). I used $1 \times \$300 \times 8$ weeks.
3. A furnished whole-house rental for 5 bedrooms and 3 or more bathrooms tends to be around \$4000 - \$6000 per month, according to a few Zillow searches, although these are admittedly usually only available in more rural/suburban areas. For example [\\$4100/mo in Parksville NY](#) or [\\$6300/mo in Paramus NJ](#). This can also be much more for short terms.
4. This scenario will likely require a high-quality, accessible site in a farmer's field or something. We could expect to be charged perhaps \$1000 per month by the site owner, who may offer a few amenities in return like camp showers/bathrooms or the use of some common areas. Some literal campgrounds may be appropriate, for about this same cost. Still, like in the 5-person tent scenario, there will also be some costs for the tent or tents themselves and camping gear, perhaps \$1000.

5. Assuming 2 cabins at \$400 per week.
6. A furnished whole-house rental for 6 bedrooms and 4 or more bathrooms, with large square-feet indicating ample re-purposeable space to accommodate more people than the bedroom count would suggest, tends to rent for around \$9000 / month. See [\\$9000/mo in Scarsdale NY](#) or [\\$9800/mo in Great Neck NY](#), or [\\$7000/mo in Brick NJ](#).
7. This scenario is not much different from the 5-20 person tent scenario.
8. Assuming 4 cabins at \$400 per week.
9. This scenario is surprisingly not that difficult from the 5-20 scenario, due to patterns of residential architecture. Marginally more space at a certain point is not much more expensive; when there are higher costs they seem to come instead from special amenities (beachside, pool, fancy neighborhood, etc.).
10. Most house rentals will require renter's insurance. This is usually low, say \$10 per month for a household, but we might get appraised at a higher cost due to our non-standard meeting structure (e.g. large number of people).
11. I assume that the participants will delegate food preparation duties amongst themselves, so the costs here are mainly ingredients and possibly delivery. According to the USDA, in [May 2022](#) typical adults can eat nutritiously by spending about \$300 per month on food. I suspect this is much higher in the northeast corridor. However, this effect is perhaps balanced by thriftiness in meal preparation for the group. So, sticking with the \$300 per month per person figure, we get $5 \times \$300 \times 2$ months.
12. For conservatism, using 15 people as the reference, the food costs should approximately triple compared with the 5-person case.
13. 4 times the 5-person case.
14. In minimalist/rustic conditions, food preparation is more costly due to lack of a kitchen. Moreover these conditions incentivize much more frequent purchase of prepared food, possibly delivered as well. To roughly account for this, assume 2 times per week an extra cost of \$200 for a large meal for 5 to 10 people. So $2 \times 8 \text{ weeks} \times \200 , plus \$250 in preparation materials and supplies.
15. In the US the base cost of internet access is around \$60 per month. For the higher bandwidth of many users, we should perhaps double this to \$120 per month.
16. In rural areas internet access is often supplied by local companies via satellite infrastructure. Being local is associated with a higher per-customer charge, and so it satellite internet. This could perhaps double the base cost, so in the case of rural we can expect an extra charge of \$120 per month.
17. Under the tent scenario, internet access will likely come from some combination of individual data plans and ordinary internet access in common areas somewhat off-site. Since this would however replace the base cost, the additional charge here is probably not too much, perhaps \$80 per month.
18. According to the [US Energy Information Administration](#), in 2019 residential electricity usage was about \$115 per month per household. The typical household is about 3 people. Many electrical costs do not scale up with number of people, but rather with household volume (e.g. cooling). So \$300 per month could be reasonable in any house scenario. Note that in the tent or cabin scenarios, electricity costs could be mostly built in to venue rental costs, although admittedly in these scenarios (especially tent) electricity might just be generally less available in the first place.
19. We will be doing scholarship, which will probably require purchasing online access to publications or buying physical books for delivery. A typical paywalled article I've encountered seems to be around \$30. Let's say 10 of these. A typical book we might purchase is perhaps \$80, and in some cases the purpose might be to have multiple physical copies, so let's estimate 15 book purchases. This is $10 \times \$30 + 15 \times \80 .
20. The main transportation costs will be getting the participants to the site initially and back home afterwards. Some participants may be able and willing to cover some or all of this cost themselves, so this portion of the costs can be regarded as a fund to be disbursed on a case-by-case need basis. We could expect about half of the participants to be fully reimbursed for travel (or all to be half-reimbursed). Air travel and/or train from random places in the US to a specific metro area with transportation hub is

perhaps \$300 per person per trip on average. So $5 \text{ people} \times \$300 \times 2 \text{ trips} = \3000 . Halving this is \$1500. This could be reduced somewhat with carpooling.

21. For this, the 5-person figure is tripled.

22. For this, the 5-person figure is quadrupled.

23. In rural and suburban sites, often car travel for errands and groceries will be needed. Procuring the use of a car would be expensive. Although participants may offer (or even insist on) the use of their own cars, if so they should be at least somewhat compensated for the wear-and-tear and of course for gas. Assuming 30 miles per day of driving, 1.5 gallon of gas $\times 28 \text{ days} \times \$5 \text{ per gallon} = \$140$. Compensation to 1 car owner for 2 months of use should perhaps be around \$500. This is far below market rate, rental would be significantly higher, so we assume we don't do real rental.

24. A stipend of \$500 per person would provide additional capacity for each participant to meet their own daily quotas for personal comfort, as well as confer some legitimacy/clout to the whole endeavor which participants may benefit from. The offer of such a stipend also increases our pool of possible participants, probably to include many well-qualified people that would not otherwise be available. $5 \times \$500 \times = \2500 .

25. Triple the 5-person figure.

26. 4 times the 5-person figure.

27. As in academic conferences, it can be helpful to get knowledgeable people to come and work with us, deliver a lecture, etc. When they are also well-known in a field we care about, advertising the commitment of such guests can increase the chances of funding, good applicants, or other forms of support. Depending on their availability, this would typically require reimbursement of travel cost, additional separate lodging (if requested), and meals. We should probably consider offering to pay speaking fees as well, although it would necessarily be modest compared to a truly sponsored event. Let's say for a 2-day trip for one guest this adds to \$1500. Assume 2 such guests.

28. With so many people, and potentially unfamiliar venue and locale, there is a non-trivial risk of surprise costs due to accidents or weather events. Instead of ruining the whole event, such costs may be partly covered by this emergency contingency fund. Part of this fund could perhaps be spent on actual accident insurance for the event. Some such insurance will likely be needed for legal reasons at some point anyway. This is very difficult to quantify due to the inherent uncertainty, but as a baseline: accident insurance runs about \$20 per person per month. So let's say $20 \text{ people max} \times \$20 \times 2 \text{ months} = \800 , plus \$200 for a non-accident category of such costs.

29. This is the fund delegated to the participants during the final phase of the workshop to be used in entrepreneurship activities of their choice. This is a flexible cost item, but a minimum of about \$10000 is probably needed to get even close to providing the participants with the sense that they can start an activity with a significant impact. In future budget projections this could perhaps be increased radically depending on availability of funds. For the current purpose of *initial* budget projection, however, it is necessary to err on the side of lower costs in order to achieve feasibility.

Totals by scenario

	Scenario		Total cost
5	tent	rural	28800.0
5	tent	suburban	28560.0
5	tent	urban	27850.0
5	cabin	rural	26090.0
5	cabin	suburban	25850.0
5	cabin	urban	25140.0
5	house	rural	35390.0
5	house	suburban	35150.0
5	house	urban	34440.0
5-20	tent	rural	44300.0
5-20	tent	suburban	44060.0
5-20	tent	urban	43350.0
5-20	cabin	rural	44090.0
5-20	cabin	suburban	43850.0
5-20	cabin	urban	43140.0
5-20	house	rural	56390.0
5-20	house	suburban	56150.0
5-20	house	urban	55440.0
20	tent	rural	51300.0
20	tent	suburban	51060.0
20	tent	urban	50350.0
20	cabin	rural	57490.0
20	cabin	suburban	57250.0
20	cabin	urban	56540.0
20	house	rural	65390.0
20	house	suburban	65150.0
20	house	urban	64440.0

Totals by scenario (sorted)

	Scenario			Total cost
20	house	rural		65390.0
20	house	suburban		65150.0
20	house	urban		64440.0
20	cabin	rural		57490.0
20	cabin	suburban		57250.0
20	cabin	urban		56540.0
5-20	house	rural		56390.0
5-20	house	suburban		56150.0
5-20	house	urban		55440.0
20	tent	rural		51300.0
20	tent	suburban		51060.0
20	tent	urban		50350.0
5-20	tent	rural		44300.0
5-20	cabin	rural		44090.0
5-20	tent	suburban		44060.0
5-20	cabin	suburban		43850.0
5-20	tent	urban		43350.0
5-20	cabin	urban		43140.0
5	house	rural		35390.0
5	house	suburban		35150.0
5	house	urban		34440.0
5	tent	rural		28800.0
5	tent	suburban		28560.0
5	tent	urban		27850.0
5	cabin	rural		26090.0
5	cabin	suburban		25850.0
5	cabin	urban		25140.0