



New Road Scholar FAQs

Thank you for your interest in supporting public humanities as a scholar with the North Carolina Humanities Council. For more information, please read through these commonly asked questions.

1. What are the Humanities?

The humanities explores, interprets, and documents the human experience. The humanities represent ways of thinking about the meaning of our lives, and is presented through scholarly disciplines including literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, linguistics, criticism and theory of the arts, and certain aspects of social sciences that employ a qualitative approach.

The humanities can also be distinguished from the arts. The practice of discussing and interpreting the arts is the humanities. The performance or teaching of an art is not.

2. What is the North Carolina Humanities Council?

The North Carolina Humanities Council is a statewide non-profit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council serves as an advocate for lifelong learning and thoughtful dialogue about all aspects of human life. We facilitate the exploration and celebration of the many voices and stories of North Carolina's cultures and heritage. Through our programs we seek to cultivate informed and active citizenship as an outgrowth of new awareness of self and community.

3. What is the Road Scholars Program?

The Road Scholars program is a traveling, public humanities lecture series. Through funding, it provides scholarly lectures free of charge to adult (18+) audiences. The objective of this program is to foster the exploration of new ideas and perspectives, with a particular emphasis on service to seniors and rural communities.

4. How is the program administered?

The Council manages the host site application process. This process identifies community partners who facilitate delivery of the program in a particular community, curates scholarly content for the Road Scholars catalog, and evaluates the program through surveys and final host site reports to ensure that it is meeting its impact goals of fostering the exploration of new ideas and perspectives in the community.

Host Site Role: The host site has a key role in supporting the success of this program as Road Scholars events are run through host sites in communities across the state. The host site is responsible for providing venue space, promoting the event locally, arranging travel logistics and communicating with the scholar about event details.

Council-Host Site Partnership: To support the success of the host-site organizations and the impact of this program for participants, the Council offers one-one-one phone consultations with the Programs Coordinator for first time or new applicants. Prospective host sites interested in a phone consultation can click [here](#) to schedule. The Council provides host sites with an overview of program eligibility and guidelines, its expectations, and intended impact on their community.

5. What does the host site application look like?

Prospective host sites learn how to apply through the [Council's Road Scholars](#) page on our website. To be eligible for consideration, prospective host sites must submit their applications through our online system at least 60 days before the event. Below are the instructions provided to the organizations interested in applying for funding to host a Road Scholar's program:

STEP 1: Review the [Road Scholars Program Guidelines](#) and [Road Scholars Program Eligibility and FAQs](#).

STEP 2: Review the [Road Scholars Speakers Web-Catalog](#) to select a topic and speaker for your organization.

STEP 3: Contact your selected scholar to choose a date and time for the event. Please note, the Council is currently only accepting applications for events taking place 11/1/18-10/31/19.

STEP 4: [Watch this video Tutorial](#) on how to apply using our online application system or [download these instructions](#). **Need a refresher on how to navigate your Applicant Dashboard? [Click here for a video tour!](#)**

STEP 5: At **least 60 days prior** to the intended Road Scholars event date submit your online application. We strongly recommend that you bookmark the [login page](#) for easy access to your application and reports.

6. What are the eligibility requirements to be a speaker?

- It is expected that applicants will reside or work in North Carolina.
- It is expected that applicants will have an advanced degree (M.A. or higher) in one of the humanities disciplines listed above. Affiliation with an institution of higher education is customary, but not necessary.
 - Applicants without an advanced degree, but whose career and personal history demonstrates training and preparation consistent with our understanding of the humanities disciplines and methodologies are also eligible to apply.
- Applicants need not be employed, and may be retired from a professional position.
- It is expected that applicants must be genuinely interested in addressing public audiences.
- It is expected that applicants must be willing to travel for this program.

7. How can I apply to the program? How are scholars chosen?

Periodically, the Council calls for new scholar applicants. When a call is issued, application deadlines are posted on the Council's website. Interested applicants must use the Council's online application system to submit program proposals for the catalog.

Elements of an application that are taken into consideration in selecting new scholars include, but is not limited to, the applicant's academic background and expertise, and the diversity they would bring to our scholar catalog.

8. What are the best practices when preparing a talk for the Road Scholars program?

Please keep in mind that regardless of the topic, you will be speaking to the general public, including senior citizens, rather than to scholars or college students. It is expected that the presentation should create opportunities for the audience to consider new perspectives and ideas, but also extend beyond knowledge acquisition. It is expected that speakers help the audience make connections between the topic and its relevance/importance in the community. It is expected that all visual aids used during the presentation are appropriately gauged to the audience. In all cases, the topic should be grounded in the humanities.

The Council requires that scholars refrain from advocating particular political, ideological, religious, or partisan points of view. A fair, balanced, and objective presentation of all reasonable points' of view needs to be made by the scholar.

Presentations should last 40-45 minutes, with an additional 15-20 minutes for audience interaction/Q&A or discussion. Question and answer sessions are encouraged as they allow for direct engagement between the audience and the scholar.

Both the scholar and the host organization are required to acknowledge the support/sponsorship of the North Carolina Humanities Council at the beginning of the event. Please consult the Council's [publicity guidelines](#) for more information.

9. How many presentations can I do? Do I have to speak to every organization?

Scholars are limited to ten (10) speaking engagements per year based on their own schedules and convenience. Please note that returning a signed contract to the Council does not guarantee a participating scholar a minimum number of Road Scholar presentations.

Organizations requesting presentations are reminded that programs are scheduled at the speakers' convenience.

10. If I am accepted into the program, for how long will my presentations be listed in the online catalog?

Currently, Road Scholars must commit to a one-year contract upon being accepted to the program. At the end of the contract, speakers will be invited to continue participation in the Road Scholars program.

While there is no minimum number of Road Scholar presentations required per year, if a scholar or presentation is not requested for 2 years, the scholar or presentation will be determined inactive and retired from the Road Scholar program.

The Council typically does an annual call for new presentation proposals. If a scholar wishes to propose a new presentation or make changes to a current presentation in the catalog, please inform the Programs Coordinator, Melissa Giblin, to be added to the notification list.

11. How do organizations find out about my presentation?

All accepted presentations are available in the Council's online [Road Scholars program catalog](#). The catalog provides brief biographical and contact information for each speaker, followed by summaries of their programs. Speakers are welcome, of course, to promote their presentations to eligible organizations.

12. How am I paid? How much am I paid?

Road Scholars receive honoraria directly from the Council. Payment is made within 30 days of receipt of the scholar's invoice and online evaluation. To process the payment, the Council requires that each Road Scholar have a signed, [current W-9](#) on file with us.

The honorarium for scholars is \$350, and covers up to 175 miles of roundtrip mileage. Mileage beyond 175 miles, lodging, or travel expenses should be discussed and arranged with the hosting organization prior to the event.

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13. Additional questions?

If you have additional questions regarding the Road Scholars program, please contact the Programs Coordinator, Melissa Giblin. You can email questions to mgiblin@nchumanities.org or can call (704) 687-1526.