



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

2026

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINING GRANTS

Applications open September 1, 2025.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is October 31, 2025,
at 5:00 pm New York (Eastern) time**

Applicants will be notified by Feb 1, 2026, and awards will be made in March 2026.

The Women Divers Hall of Fame™ (WDHOF®) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and raising awareness of the contributions of outstanding women divers. WDHOF provides educational, mentorship, financial, and career opportunities to the diving community throughout the world. Each year, WDHOF awards scholarships and training grants that provide financial and educational support to individuals of all ages.

Twenty different categories of scholarships and training grants are offered this year. For some of the categories, more than one scholarship/grant is being offered. Descriptions of the scholarship and grant categories, award amounts, and sponsorships are listed below. Application instructions and more detailed information on how to apply can be found on the WDHOF website (www.wdhof.org).

HOW TO APPLY

- The application process is online.
- Please register [here](#) on or after September 1, 2025, to apply for a WDHOF Scholarship or Training Grant. You will be required to complete an eligibility form. Your responses to the questions will determine your eligibility for WDHOF scholarships and training grants, and you will be directed to a list of scholarships/grants for which you are eligible to apply.
- **You may only apply for ONE scholarship or ONE training grant.**

DEADLINES, NOTIFICATIONS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Important Information: Read First!

- Applications open on September 1, 2025, and close on October 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm New York (Eastern) time.
- All applications require two letters of recommendation from individuals who can comment on your ability to complete the proposed project or training within 18 months of the award. Details about the letters of recommendation are provided on the application form. The letters of recommendation are also due on October 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm New York (Eastern) time.

- **No applications or letters of recommendation will be accepted after the October 31, 2025 deadline.**
- Awards will be announced February 1, 2026, and the awards will be made in March 2026.
- **PLEASE DO NOT APPLY IF YOU NEED THE SCHOLARSHIP OR TRAINING GRANT BEFORE MARCH 2026. The awards cannot be used to reimburse expenses incurred prior to March 2026.**
- The scholarship or training grant must be used within 18 months of the date of the award (August 31, 2027). **Please do not apply if you cannot complete the project or dive training within 18 months of receiving the award, i.e. by August 31, 2027.**
- At the completion of the project or training, a report detailing how the funds were used must be submitted online through the grants portal.
- We are pleased to welcome Awardees as WDHOF [Associates](#) on a complimentary basis for one year.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Nine categories of scholarships are offered this year in marine conservation (basic or applied research), marine biology, underwater archaeology, sea turtle conservation, climate change adaptation/mitigation, oceans & human health, extreme environment human physiology, and journalism/graphic arts/photography/videography. They are intended to support independent research, field work, and conservation/restoration activities, as specified in the descriptions.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Captain Wayne Hasson Memorial Fellowship for Climate Change Research - \$10,000

One \$10,000 scholarship is available to a qualified applicant of any age who is enrolled in an accredited PhD degree program, or is a post-doctoral fellow or early career scientist (less than 3 years since PhD). Applicants may be biologists, geochemists, engineers, resource managers, economists, or from any discipline related to climate change research. Research topics may include, but are not limited to, impacts (or prediction of impacts) of climate change on marine organisms, adaptation of marine organisms to changes in ocean temperature and/or pH, mitigation of climate change impacts, or management and policy related to climate change impacts in the ocean. The fellowship may be used to support independent basic or applied research, including field work expenses, supplies, or participation in national or international meetings focused on climate change. The fellowship will not support salary, tuition, living expenses, student loan payments, prior incurred expenses, or the purchase of dive equipment or underwater cameras unless the latter are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application. The applicant should clearly state how the intended use of the fellowship will advance tackling the challenges associated with the impacts of climate change in the ocean. A research proposal detailing the objectives, methods, and anticipated results is required.

Sponsored by:

- The Hasson family (WDHOF Member [Anne Hasson](#)) in memory of their husband and father Wayne Hasson.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Oceans and Human Health Graduate Scholarship - \$2,500

One \$2,500 scholarship is available to qualified applicants of any age who are enrolled in an accredited graduate academic or research program and conducting research in a discipline related to oceans and human health (i.e., how humans affect ocean health and how the oceans affect human health). Examples include research on risks (e.g., ocean pollution, toxins, harmful algal blooms), benefits (e.g., nutrition, medicines, transport, culture, health and well-being), as well as the interactions between the two. For more details, please see the WDHOF website. This scholarship is intended to support independent basic or applied research or fieldwork at an accredited university. The scholarship will not support salary, tuition, living expenses, student loan payments, or prior incurred expenses. It will not support the purchase of dive equipment or underwater cameras unless they are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application. A research proposal detailing the objectives, methods, and anticipated results is required.

Sponsored by:

- Michael Gower

Graduate Marine Conservation Scholarships - \$2000 each (women only)

Five scholarships (\$2000 each) are available to qualified applicants of any age who are enrolled in an accredited graduate academic or research program in the field of marine conservation or a related discipline (e.g., marine biology, marine policy, fisheries science, maritime law, economics). Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and must be in good standing with their academic institution. First-year graduate students may submit verification of a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 from their final year as an undergraduate. These scholarships are intended to support independent research, fieldwork, and/or applied conservation activities at an accredited university. They will not support salary, tuition, living expenses, student loan payments, or prior incurred expenses. They will not support the purchase of dive equipment or underwater cameras unless they are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application. The applicant should clearly state how the intended use of the scholarship will advance marine conservation. A research proposal detailing the conservation objectives, methods, and anticipated results is required. There are several sponsors and different eligibility criteria. Please check the WDHOF website for sponsorship and eligibility details. The WDHOF Scholarship Committee will select the sponsor and award based on applicant eligibility criteria and reviewer recommendations.

Sponsored by:

- WDHOF Member [Cecilie Benjamin](#), in memory of her husband [Max Benjamin](#)
- WDHOF Member [Meg Donat](#)
- John and Jeanne Morrison, in memory of their daughter [Rachel](#) (2 scholarships)
- Richard Laurence Parish Foundation/WDHOF Member [Robin Parish](#)

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Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarships

Two scholarships (one for \$1500, one for \$1000) are offered. The Sherry Reed Memorial Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship (\$1500) (women only) and the Oceanic Research Group Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship (\$1000) are open to qualified applicants of any age who are enrolled in an accredited undergraduate academic or research program in the field of marine conservation or a related discipline. This scholarship is intended to support independent research and/or fieldwork at an accredited university; it will not support salary, tuition, living expenses, student loan payments, or prior incurred expenses. It will not support the purchase of dive equipment or underwater cameras unless they are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application. The applicant should clearly state how the intended use of the scholarship will advance marine conservation. A research proposal detailing the conservation objectives, methods, and anticipated results is required.

Sponsored by:

- **Family and friends in memory of WDHOF Member [Sherry Reed](#)**
- **[Oceanic Research Group](#) (WDHOF Member [Dr. Christine Bird](#))**

J. Berman Memorial Grant for Sea Turtle Conservation - \$2000 (women only)

One \$2000 grant is available to a qualified woman of any age to advance the conservation of sea turtles. Applicants do not need to be students or enrolled in a degree-granting program. The funds are intended to support a sea turtle conservation activity-and not conservation research. A conservation plan should be clearly defined to detail the actual conservation activity and the anticipated outputs and outcomes. The grant will support field work, supplies, or equipment that directly support the conservation activity. Funds cannot be used to support salary, tuition, living expenses, student loan payments, or prior incurred expenses. It will not support the purchase of dive equipment or underwater cameras unless they are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application. The budget should be specific. The applicant should clearly state to whom and how the results of the conservation activity will be communicated to resource managers or regulatory agencies.

Sponsored by:

- **The J. Berman Memorial Foundation**

Undergraduate Marine Research Internship - \$1500

A \$1,500 internship is available to an undergraduate student who has completed at least one year of college and who will be participating in an identified research or internship program with a focus in the marine sciences. The internship may be at a university, research institute, non-profit organization, aquarium, or zoo. It is preferable that the student have at least beginning logistical details identified and provided with their application packet. If the applicant has not yet received confirmation of their internship/research program, they should provide details for their submitted or pending applications (with due dates listed). Applicants are to inform [WDHOF](#) when they are notified that they have received the research/internship. Funds will not be provided until this is received. (Note that receipt of the UMRI award is preferential to an applicant with an internship/research program confirmed). Funding could be utilized during the spring semester, summer, or fall semester, but must be completed by August 31, 2027. Applicants must provide documentation to verify that they have completed at least 30 credits with 12+ credits in the natural sciences, and they must still be enrolled in an undergraduate academic program during participation in the internship/research program for which they are applying. The internship can be used to offset expenses (e.g., travel, living expenses, research expenses) related to the internship or their research program. Funds cannot be used to support salary, tuition, student loan payments, prior incurred expenses, or the purchase of dive equipment or underwater cameras unless they are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application. The budget should be specific.

Sponsored by:

- **WDHOF Member [Sue Morra Shoemaker, Ph.D.](#) and WDHOF Member [Kathleen Dudzinski, Ph.D.](#)**

Graduate Scholarships in Underwater Archaeology - \$2500

Two \$2500 scholarships are available: the Cecelia Connelly Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology (women only) and the Michael Gower Graduate Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology. The scholarships are open to applicants of any age who are enrolled in an accredited graduate level course of study leading to a career in the field of underwater archaeology. The applicant must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and must be in good standing with their academic institution. First-year graduate students may submit verification of a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 from their final year as an undergraduate. The funds are intended to assist with research or field study costs, and not with salary, stipends, living expenses, student loan payments, or prior incurred expenses. They may not be used for dive equipment or underwater cameras unless they are specific to the proposed research; such items require additional budget justification.

Sponsored by:

- **The Connelly Family, in memory of their mother, WDHOF Member [Cecelia Connelly](#)**
- **Michael Gower**

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Laurel Clark Sea to Space Physiology Research Grants (\$5000 each)

Two \$5000 grants are available to support graduate research in extreme environment human physiology (diving, altitude, and/or space). The grants are not to study effects of extreme environments on marine organisms. Individuals with current or pending enrollment in a degree-granting graduate program are eligible to apply. A research proposal detailing the objectives, hypotheses to be tested, methods, anticipated results, and alternative approaches is required. The grant is for 18 months, during which time the recipient will be expected to have completed the proposed research and submitted a report detailing how the funds were used. It is expected that results of the research will be submitted for presentation at an academic conference and/or submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal within 6 months of project completion. The funds are intended to assist with research costs, and not with salary, stipends, living expenses, student loan payments, prior incurred expenses, dive equipment or cameras (unless the latter are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application).

Sponsored by:

- Jonathan Clark, in memory of his wife [Dr. Laurel Clark](#), medical doctor, U.S. Navy Captain, accomplished diver, and NASA astronaut

Bonnie Cardone Memorial Scholarship for Ocean-Minded Content Creators - \$1500 (women only)

One \$1,500 scholarship is available to a woman diver who is enrolled in a degree-granting undergraduate or graduate program in the U.S. or Canada studying videography, photography, graphic design, or journalism and who plans to use her education/training to protect and serve our ocean world. The scholarship may be used to support tuition, participation in a photography, videography, or journalism workshop, or to gain real-world experience through an internship program at an accredited university. It may not be used for student loan payments, housing or living expenses, prior incurred expenses, dive equipment or cameras (unless the latter are specific to the proposed research and are justified in the application). The application should detail specific plans for how the scholarship will be used, and how the outcome of the scholarship will be applied to better serve the ocean environment or ocean community.

Sponsored by:

- WDHOF Members [Michele Hall](#), [Andrea Stockert](#), and [Karen Straus](#) in memory of WDHOF Member [Bonnie Cardone](#)

TRAINING GRANTS

Eleven categories of training grants are offered this year. Training grants provide funding for diving and diving-related underwater training. WDHOF and our sponsors offer several dive training grants for both beginners to learn to dive and for certified divers to advance their skills.

Basic Dive Training Grants (learn to dive) - \$1000 each

Six basic dive training grants are being offered to individuals who wish to learn to dive through internationally recognized scuba diving programs. The grants are valued at \$1000: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount for training); and \$500 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$500 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized diver-training agency.

Sponsored by:

- Frank Boulanger, in memory of his wife, WDHOF Member [Ella Jean Morgan](#) (women only, ages 15-21)
- [Ocean Wishes](#) / WDHOF Member [Margo Peyton](#) and WDHOF (women only, 2 awards)
- Friends of WDHOF Member [Evelyn Dudas](#) and Suzie Dudas (applicants under 21)
- [SDI](#) / WDHOF Member [Stephanie Miele](#) (women only)
- Richard Laurence Parish Foundation / WDHOF Member [Robin Parish](#) (women only)

Jennifer King Memorial Dive Training Grant for ROTC or Military Academy Students - \$1500

Two awards - one basic (learn to dive) and one advanced (for certified divers) dive training grant - are being offered to applicants who are in ROTC or a military academy. The grants are valued at \$1500 each: \$800 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount--\$1500--for training) and \$700 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$800 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized diver-training agency.

Sponsored by:

- Joe Stich in memory of his wife and WDHOF Member and Co-founder [Jennifer King](#)

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Advanced Dive Training Grants – Recreational Diving - \$1000 (women only)

Two Advanced Dive Training Grants - Recreational Diving - are being offered to divers of any age and background who wish to further their dive education for personal or recreational diving through approved scuba diving programs beyond the basic certification level. Applicants must be certified at the open-water diver level (or equivalent), or above, by an internationally recognized dive certification agency. The grants are valued at \$1000 each: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount for training) and \$500 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$500 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized diver-training agency.

Sponsored by:

- Bonnie Toth Advertising and Design / WDHOF Member [Bonnie Toth](#)
- [Ocean Wishes](#) / WDHOF Member [Margo Peyton](#) and WDHOF

Advanced Dive Training Grants – Professional Diving - \$1000 (women only)

These grants are offered to advance diving skills beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for the applicant's profession. They are open to women only. Applicants must be certified at the open-water diver level (or equivalent), or above, by an internationally recognized dive certification agency. The grants are valued at \$1000: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount--\$1000--for training) and \$500 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$500 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized dive training organization. Note that you should not apply for this grant for scientific diving certification or for certification as a dive instructor. There are separate awards for those categories.

Sponsored by:

- [Stream2Sea](#) / WDHOF Member [Autumn Blum](#)
- [Ocean Wishes](#) / WDHOF Member [Margo Peyton](#) and WDHOF

Advanced Dive Training Grants – Scientific Diving - \$1000

Two grants are available to support advanced dive training beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for scientific diving applications. Applicants must be certified at the open-water diver level (or equivalent), or above, by an internationally recognized dive certification agency. The grants are valued at \$1000 each: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount--\$1000--for training) and \$500 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$500 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized diver-training agency.

Sponsored by:

- [Blue Green Expeditions](#) / WDHOF Member [Faith Ortins](#)
- WDHOF Member [Caron Shake](#) (U.S. Navy, retired) (women only)

Advanced Dive Training Grant – Technical Diving - \$1000 (women only)

This grant will support advanced dive training beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for technical diving applications (e.g., mixed gas, rebreather, cave diving, etc.). The grant is open to women only. Applicants must be certified at the open-water diver level (or equivalent), or above, by an internationally recognized dive certification agency. The grant is valued at \$1000: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount--\$1000--for training) and \$500 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$500 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in certification from TDI.

Sponsored by:

- [TDI](#) / WDHOF Member [Stephanie Miele](#)

Advanced Dive Training – Underwater Photography (women only)

The Jim Leffard Memorial Training Grant for Underwater Photography (\$1500) is available to women of any age who are living in the U.S. and who are interested in learning underwater photography. Applicants must be certified at the open-water diver level (or equivalent), or above, by an internationally recognized dive certification agency. The funds can be used to enroll in an underwater photography course and to purchase appropriate photography equipment. The grant is valued at \$1500: the entire award may be used for training; the maximum that can be spent on photography gear is \$1000.

Sponsored by:

- Rosemary Kurtti, in memory of Jim Leffard

Advanced Dive Training – Dive Instructor (\$1000)

Two \$1000 grants are available to certified divers of any age and background to develop their diving skills to become certified as a dive instructor. Applicants must be certified at the open-water diver level (or equivalent), or above, by an internationally recognized dive certification agency. The grants are valued at \$1000: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount for training) and \$500 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$500 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in dive instructor certification from an internationally recognized diver-training organization.

Sponsored by:

- [Girls that Scuba](#) (women or non-binary people)
- WDHOF Member [Erin O'Neill](#) (women only)

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Instructor Advanced Education Training Grant - \$2000 (women only)

One \$2,000 grant is available to women who are certified scuba diving instructors and have trained and certified a minimum of 25 open water divers. The purpose of the grant is to encourage instructors to expand their own underwater-related skills by taking additional training leading to certification to teach dive specialty courses or become certified as an instructor in a diving education, skill-associated field such as CPR, O2, AED, First Aid, or earn a certificate in an industry-associated field such as chamber operation or equipment repair. The grant is not limited to these examples. Other courses that are post-instructor certification that improve or expand the instructor's dive training safety or skills will be considered. The grant may be used for single or multiple course fees and equipment needed for specialized diving or to teach the learned skill/specialty. The award may not be used for travel expenses.

Sponsored by:

- WDHOF Member [Jeanne Bear Sleeper](#) (women only)

Amelia Behrens-Furniss Memorial Hardhat or Commercial Dive Training Grant - \$1000

This advanced dive training grant is available to certified women divers of any age and background who wish to further their training in hardhat or commercial diving. Applicants should be enrolled in or attending a commercial dive school. The grant is valued at \$1000: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount--\$1000--for training) and \$500 for dive gear (or the balance remaining after at least \$500 has been used for dive training). Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized diver-training program.

Sponsored by:

- Noel Furniss in memory of his grandmother, WDHOF Member [Amelia Behrens-Furniss](#) (women only)

Diver Medical Education Grants – 2 at £1000 each; 3 at \$500 each

Five training grants are available. No funds will be awarded; training is provided directly by the Diver Medic.

- Two grants (valued at £1000 each) will be awarded for Diver Medical Training to qualified individuals in the UK and Europe. Applicants must be over the age of 18, have at least the recreational diver certification or equivalent, and should hold a current EFR/BLS/First Aid certification. The grants cover full diver medical theory and practical training (approximately 70 hours); please refer to the Diver Medic website. The student will be responsible for arranging and paying for their own transport, accommodation, and other expenses to the training locations. On successful completion, the student will receive a certificate and certification card.
- Three grants (valued at \$500 each) for EFR Approved Diving Emergency Medical Responder Courses will be awarded to women or men in the USA or Canada. For more details of the online courses, please check the Diver Medic website. On successful completion, the student will receive a certificate and certification card.

Sponsored by:

- [Diver Medic](#) / WDHOF Member [Chantelle Newman](#)

Please read all of the instructions found at www.wdhof.org.

Any questions still remaining about the WDHOF Scholarship and Grant application process, contact [the WDHOF Scholarship Committee](#).