



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

2027

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINING GRANTS

Applications open October 1, 2026.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is November 30, 2026,
at 5:00 p.m. New York (Eastern) time**

Applicants will be notified in February 2027, and awards will be made in March 2027.

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.

WDHOF offers two types of awards: scholarships and dive training grants. Scholarships provide support for scholarly research or conservation activities. Dive training grants provide support to learn how to scuba dive or to advance dive training skills.

Nineteen different categories of scholarships and training grants are offered this year. Descriptions of the scholarship and grant categories, award amounts, and sponsorships are listed below. Full descriptions of the awards, eligibility requirements, application instructions, and how to apply can be found on the WDHOF website (www.wdhof.org).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Applications open on October 1, 2026 and close on November 30, 2026, at 5:00 pm New York (Eastern) time.
- The application process is online.
- Please register [here](#) on or after October 1, 2026, 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.
- 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 November 30, 2026, at 5:00 pm New York (Eastern) time.
- No applications or letters of recommendation will be accepted after the November 30, 2026, deadline.
- Awards will be announced in February 2027, and the awards will be made in March 2027.
- PLEASE DO NOT APPLY IF YOU NEED THE SCHOLARSHIP OR TRAINING GRANT BEFORE MARCH 2027. The awards cannot be used to reimburse expenses prior to March 2027.
- The scholarship or training grant must be used within 18 months of the date of the award (August 31, 2028). 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, 2028.
- 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.

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

This fellowship is available to a qualified applicant of any age who is enrolled in an accredited Ph.D. degree program, or is a post-doctoral fellow or early career scientist (less than 3 years since Ph.D.). Applicants may be biologists, geochemists, engineers, resource managers, economists, or from any discipline related to climate change research and its impact on ocean ecosystems. 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 applicant should clearly state how the intended use of the fellowship will advance tackling the challenges associated with the impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems. A research proposal detailing the objectives, methods, and anticipated results is required.

Sponsored by:

- The Hasson family (WDHOF Member [Anne Hasson](#))

Laurel Clark Memorial Sea to Space Physiology Research Grants – 2 @ \$5000 each

Two research 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. 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.

Sponsored by:

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

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

One 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 or 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), or the interactions between the two.

- *Sponsored by:* Michael Gower

The Cecelia Connelly Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology – 2 @ \$2500

Two scholarships are available and 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.

Sponsored by:

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

Graduate Marine Conservation Scholarships – 7 @ \$2000 each (women only)

Seven scholarships 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. The applicant should clearly state how the intended use of the scholarship will advance marine conservation.

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](#) (4 scholarships)
- Richard Laurence Parish Foundation / WDHOF Member [Robin Parish](#)



Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarships – 2 @ \$1500 each

Two scholarships are available. The Sherry Reed Memorial Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship (women only) and the Oceanic Research Group Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship 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. The applicant should clearly state how the intended use of the scholarship will advance marine conservation.

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)

This 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 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

One 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. Detailed application requirements are provided on the WDHOF website (wdhof.org). 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.

Sponsored by:

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

Bonnie Cardone Memorial Scholarship for Ocean-Minded Content Creators - \$2000 (women only)

One 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. 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 Member [Michele Hall](#) and Howard Hall and WDHOF Member [Karen Straus](#) and Eric Hanauer, in memory of WDHOF Member [Bonnie Cardone](#)

TRAINING GRANTS

Ten categories of dive training grants are available 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. Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized diver-training agency.

Basic Dive Training Grants (learn to dive) – several @ \$1200 each

Several basic dive training grants (open water, junior open water, or their equivalent) are available to individuals who wish to learn to dive through internationally recognized scuba diving programs. The grants are valued at \$1200. Please consult the [WDHOF website](#) for full details regarding eligibility requirements and use of the grant funds. 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, 4 awards, PADI only)
- Friends of WDHOF Member [Evelyn Dudas](#) and Suzie Dudas (applicants under 21)
- WDHOF Member [Patti Gross](#) (women only)
- [SDI](#) / WDHOF Member [Stephanie Miele](#) (women only, TDI only)
- Richard Laurence Parish Foundation / WDHOF Member [Robin Parish](#) (women only)
- Donations to the Women Divers Hall of Fame Scholarship/Training Grant Program

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Advanced Dive Training Grants (for certified divers) – \$1500 each (unless specified otherwise)

Several advanced dive training grants are available to certified divers to advance their diving skills through internationally recognized scuba diving programs. 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 \$1500, unless specified otherwise. Please consult the [WDHOF website](#) for full details regarding eligibility requirements and use of the grant funds. Dive training must culminate in a certification from an internationally recognized diver-training agency.

Advanced Dive Training Grant – Recreational Diving - \$1500 (women only)

This grant is available 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 open water certification level.

- *Sponsored by:* Bonnie Toth Advertising and Design / WDHOF Member [Bonnie Toth](#)

Advanced Dive Training Grant – Professional Diving - \$1500 (women only)

This grant is available to advance diving skills beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for the applicant's profession. 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](#)

Advanced Dive Training Grants – Scientific Diving – 2 @ \$1500

Two grants are available to support advanced dive training beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for scientific diving applications and/or to obtain certification for scientific diving.

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 - \$2000 (women only)

One grant is available to support advanced dive training beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for technical diving applications (e.g., mixed-gas, rebreather, cave diving, etc.). Dive training must culminate in certification from TDI.

- *Sponsored by:* [TDI](#) / WDHOF Member [Stephanie Miele](#)

Advanced Dive Training – Underwater Photography - \$1500 (women only)

Two grants are available to women of any age 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, as specified in the detailed description on the [WDHOF website \(wdhof.org\)](#).

Sponsored by:

- WDHOF Member [Erin Quigley](#)
- Rosemary Kurtii, in memory of Jim Leffard

Advanced Dive Training – Dive Instructor (\$1500) (women only)

One grant is available to certified women divers of any age and background to develop their diving skills to become certified as a dive instructor.

- *Sponsored by:* WDHOF Member [Erin O'Neill](#) (women only)

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

One 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.

- *Sponsored by:* WDHOF Member [Jeanne Bear Sleeper](#)

Jennifer King Memorial Dive Training Grant for ROTC or Military Academy Students – 1 @ \$1200, 1 @ \$1500

Two awards - one basic (learn to dive, open water, junior open water, or equivalent) and one advanced (for certified divers) dive training grant - are available to applicants who are in ROTC or a military academy. Please consult the [WDHOF website](#) for full details regarding use of the grant funds.

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

Amelia Behrens-Furniss Memorial Hardhat or Commercial Dive Training Grant - \$1500 (women only)

One award 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. Please consult the [WDHOF website](#) for full details regarding use of the grant funds.

Sponsored by:

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