



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™ 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINING GRANTS

Applications open September 15, 2023.

The deadline for receipt of applications is November 15, 2023, at 5:00 pm New York time.
(Exception: Undergraduate Marine Research Internship closes Jan 15, 2024, at 5:00 pm New York time.)

Applicants will be notified by Feb 1, 2024, and awards will be made in March 2024.

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.

HOW TO APPLY

- The application process is online.
- Please register [here](#) on or after September 15, 2023, 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, NOTIFICATION, AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFO

Important Information: Read First!

- Applications open on September 15, 2023, and close on November 15, 2023, at 5:00 pm New York time (EST). One exception: the Undergraduate Marine Research Internship application deadline is January 15, 2024, at 5:00 pm New York time (EST).
- All applications require two letters of recommendation from individuals who can comment on your ability to complete the proposed project or training. Details about the letters of recommendation are provided on the application form.
- **No applications or letters of recommendation will be accepted after the deadline.**
- Awards will be announced February 1, 2024, and the awards will be made in March 2024.
- **PLEASE DO NOT APPLY IF YOU NEED THE SCHOLARSHIP OR TRAINING GRANT BEFORE MARCH 2024.**
- The scholarship or training grant must be used within 18 months of the date of the award (August 31, 2025). **Please do not apply if you cannot complete the project or dive training within 18 months of receiving the award.**
- At the completion of the project or training, a report detailing how the funds were used must be submitted online.
- We are pleased to welcome Awardees as WDHOF [Associates](#) on a complimentary basis for one year.

SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

Seventeen 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).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seven categories of scholarships are offered this year in marine conservation (basic or applied research), marine biology, underwater archaeology, seagrass and coral restoration/conservation, sea turtle conservation, extreme environment 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.

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

Several scholarships (\$2000 each) will be awarded 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. 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 or student loan payments. 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](#)
- [Sea of Change Foundation](#)/WDHOF Member [Anne Hasson](#), in memory of her husband, [Captain Wayne Hasson](#)
- [Ocean Wishes](#)/WDHOF Member [Margo Peyton](#)
- Richard Laurence Parish Foundation/WDHOF Member [Robin Parish](#)

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**Sherry Reed Memorial Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship - \$1500 (women only)**

The Sherry Reed Memorial Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship (\$1500) will be awarded to a qualified woman of any age who is 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 or student loan payments. 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](#)

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

One \$2000 grant will be awarded 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 or student loan payments. 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 - \$1000 (women or men)

A \$1,000 internship will be awarded to a still-matriculated undergraduate student (woman or man) who will be participating in a confirmed internship program with a focus in marine biology. The internship and logistical details should be identified by the applicant and provided with his/her/their application. If the applicant has not yet received the internship award, s/he/they should provide details for one or more applications that the applicant has submitted but not yet received confirmation of the award (but note that receipt of the UMRI award is preferential to an applicant with an internship confirmed). Applicants must provide documentation to verify that they have completed at least 60 credits or hold third-year (junior) status prior to starting the internship; applicants must still be enrolled in an academic program during participation in the internship for which they are applying. This scholarship can be used to offset expenses (e.g., travel, lodging, research expenses) related to the internship. The internship is typically ~3 months (or completed during a summer session), though longer duration exceptions will be considered. DEADLINE for application for this award is JAN 15, 2024.

Sponsored by:

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

Cecelia Connelly Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology - \$2500 (women only)

One scholarship (\$2500) is available for a deserving woman of any age who is 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 her 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 or student loan payments.

Sponsored by:

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

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

Two \$5000 grants will be awarded 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. Women or men 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.

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 in Journalism, Graphic Arts, Photography, or Videography - \$1500 (women only)

One \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a woman diver who is enrolled in a degree-granting undergraduate or graduate program in the U.S. or Canada in the field of journalism, graphic arts, photography, or videography and who plans to use her education/training to better serve the ocean environment or ocean community. The scholarship may be used to support tuition, participation in a journalism, graphic arts, or photography workshop, or an internship program at an accredited university. It may not be used for student loan payments, housing, or prior incurred expenses. 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](#)

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TRAINING GRANTS

Ten 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 (women or men)

Several basic dive training grants are being offered to women or men 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); \$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. Please refer to www.WDHOF.org for eligibility criteria.

Sponsored by:

- Frank Boulanger, in memory of his wife, WDHOF Member [Ella Jean Morgan](#)
- [Ocean Wishes](#)/WDHOF Member [Margo Peyton](#)
- Friends of WDHOF Member [Evelyn Dudas](#) and Suzie Dudas
- [SDI](#)/ WDHOF Member [Stephanie Miele](#)
- WDHOF Member [Patti Gross](#)
- [Stream2Sea](#)/WDHOF Member [Autumn Blum](#)

Basic or Advanced Dive Training Grant for Sea Scouts, Sea Cadets, ROTC, JROTC, military academy students - \$1000 (women or men)

One basic (learn to dive) or advanced (for certified divers) dive training grant is being offered to applicants who are in Sea Scouts, Sea Cadets, JROTC, ROTC, or a military academy. The grant is valued at \$1000: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount--\$1000--for training); \$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:

- The Women's Scuba Association (WDHOF Member and Co-founder [Jennifer King](#))

Advanced Dive Training Grant – Recreational Diving - \$1000 (women or men)

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. One grant is for 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 for training); \$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](#) (training) and Donations to WDHOF general scholarship fund

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

This grant is offered to advance diving skills beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for the applicant's profession. It 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 grants are valued at \$1000: \$500 for dive training (however, the applicant may request the entire award amount--\$1000--for training); \$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.

Sponsored by:

- Donations to the WDHOF Scholarship Program

Advanced Dive Training Grant – Scientific Diving - \$1000 (women or men)

Two grants will support advanced dive training beyond open water diver level (or equivalent) for scientific diving applications. One 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); \$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](#) (retired U.S. Navy) (women only)

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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.). This 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); \$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](#)

Jim Leffard Memorial Training Grant for Underwater Photography - \$1500 (women only)

This grant is open 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. 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 (or the balance remaining after training).

Sponsored by:

- Rosemary Kurtti, in memory of Jim Leffard

Amelia Behrens-Furniss Memorial Hardhat Dive Training Grant - \$1000 (women only)

This advanced dive training grant is open to certified women divers of any age and background who wish to further their training in hardhat 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); \$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:

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

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

One \$2,000 grant is open 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](#)

Diver Medical Education Grants – 2 at £1000 each; 3 at \$500 each (women or men)

Five training grants will be awarded to qualified women or men. 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 women or men in the UK and European areas. 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 his/her/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](#).