



Training Scholarship Policy and Application

3/15/2015

The mission of Women Outdoors is to provide a supportive environment where all women can have fun and challenge themselves in a community of women who love the outdoors while respecting the Earth.

One way we strive to fulfill that mission is by offering need-based financial support to allow women to cover the organization's yearly membership fee or to attend the annual Gathering. *To apply for assistance with annual dues or to attend the Gathering, please see the Gathering/Membership Dues Scholarship Application.*

In addition, we offer need-based scholarships to assist in preparing Women Outdoors members to participate in and lead outdoor activities, be it through leadership training, outdoors activity-focused training, certifications, or education. The funds for these programs are donated by the generous contributions of members. Training scholarship recipients are selected by the Board of Directors.

What Scholarships Cover: Scholarships are for direct event costs only. Optional expenses are not covered by scholarship funds. If you have special needs that add to your expenses, make sure to explain them in your application. Full scholarships are not always given and therefore an important part of your application is to provide a realistic plan to clarify how you will pay the balance of your expenses.

Scholarship Availability: Available scholarship funds vary from year to year. We do our best to help as many women as possible, but there is no guarantee that every applicant will receive a scholarship.

First-Aid Training: Women Outdoors will reimburse training costs of basic First Aid, AED and CPR for all Regional Contacts and for trip leaders whom Regional Contacts may nominate. Scholarships must be applied for before training commences to ensure reimbursement. See application deadlines below.

Scholarship Recipient Obligations: Recipients of scholarships for training, certification or education are required to give back to fellow members in appropriate ways, whether by leading a workshop at the Gathering to share newly acquired skills and/or knowledge, by leading outdoor activities that employ those skills and/or knowledge, or by volunteering to assist in Women Outdoors events or to assist Regional Contacts or the Board of Directors. We all have something to offer Women Outdoors, and many scholarship recipients have been volunteers before and/or after receiving scholarships. Please describe in your scholarship application how you plan to give back to Women Outdoors in whatever way you are able.

Scholarship Award Criteria: In order to make the scholarship application process as fair as possible, award criteria have been established and are made available to all applicants. You can find the award criteria in this document.

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Scholarship Deadline:

- Training/Certification/Education: Scholarship applications are due at least four weeks prior to the event registration deadline.

Notification: Please expect a decision from the Board of Directors within two weeks of all scholarship applications.

Payment: In the case of training scholarships, approved candidates will be reimbursed for an amount to be determined by the Board following successful completion of training and presentation of proof of such successful completion.

Scholarship Award Criteria: The Board will consider the following criteria when evaluating scholarship applications. The criteria are evaluated only in the positive. For example, an applicant may receive points for being a long-time member but a new member will not lose points. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide examples of how they meet the criteria.

- Complete application – incomplete applications will not be considered.
- An individual may not receive a scholarship two years in a row.
- Member in good standing – only current members in good standing are eligible for scholarships.
- Description of ways in which recipient proposes to give back to the organization (see "Scholarship Recipient Obligations" description, above).

Women who meet one or more of the following categories are given higher consideration during application review:

- Financial need – women with greater financial need.
- Length of WO membership – women who have supported the organization with more years of membership.
- Prior WO Service – members who have contributed service to WO in prior years, including serving on the Board of Directors, volunteering at the Gathering, volunteering to help member's Regional Contact with regional activities, presenting a workshop or leading an activity at the Gathering or for a region(s), serving on a committee, or other activities that help the organization.
- Financial plan – women who provide realistic plans on how they will pay their balance.
- Mothers and daughters – a mother's long-term membership or WO service will be considered in her daughter's application.
- Instructors and students – an instructor's long-term membership or WO service will be considered in her student's application

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Training Scholarship Application Form

3/15/2015

Please complete and return this application for training scholarships to president@womenoutdoors.org and treasurer@womenoutdoors.org. All items are required unless otherwise indicated.

Scholarship application is for _____

Date of event/training _____

Personal Information

Name	
Email	
Phone number(s)	
Street address	
City, state, zip	
WO region	

WO Membership (required – check one) (Can pay online at Womenoutdoors.org/joinus)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Current year's dues already submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Current year's dues submitted with scholarship application

Expenses and Financial Plan Consult the event registration materials to determine your expected fees, then enter this amount along with your travel and other expenses to calculate you total cost for the event. Subtract the Award Requested from the total to determine your balance.

Item	Amount	Description
Tuition		
Travel		
First Aid training (specify certification in Description field)		
Other (describe)		
Total		
Award requested		
Balance		

[Type here]

What is your financial plan to pay your balance (your contribution)?

Narrative: Briefly (150 words or less) explain why you wish to attend this event and if you meet any of the criteria that would offer you higher consideration make sure to include those points (refer to the list on the previous page).

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