



2025 APPLICATION PACKET

**PEPE MARCOS-IGA**

**LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

HONORING LEADERSHIP, ADVANCING LIFELONG LEARNING

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# General Information

<b>Overview</b>	<p>The <i>Pepe Marcos-Iga Leadership Scholarship</i> supports Western National Parks Association (WNPA) staff who demonstrate outstanding leadership and a commitment to lifelong learning. A force in environmental education and conservation for more than two decades, Pepe was devoted to capacity-building, cultural competency development, and online training and networking. He was international programs director for Environmental Education Exchange and was a member of the leadership team of the EECapacity project, EPA's National Environmental Education Program, in partnership with Cornell University and the North American Association for Environmental Education, where he served as board chair. From 2016 to 2018, Pepe was WNPA's chief operating officer, having previously served on the WNPA board of directors. He lost his battle with cancer in 2018.</p>
<b>Application</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To properly prepare your scholarship application, refer to page 3 to review a copy of the electronic form.</li><li>• The information supplied is limited to the space provided and submitted on the electronic form.</li><li>• A letter of recommendation from a WNPA manager or executive leader is a required upload.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ File must be a PDF</li><li>◦ Before uploading, name the file as follows: your firstname.lastname.pepe   Example: john.smith.pepe</li></ul></li><li>• For assistance with your application or suggested education programs, contact Lindsey Stone, associate director of learning and development, at <a href="mailto:lindsey.stone@wnpa.org">lindsey.stone@wnpa.org</a>.</li></ul>
<b>Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple scholarship awards are possible.</li><li>• The funding amount will vary depending on the program or certification being pursued. Therefore, there is no limit on the amount of requested funding.</li></ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Applicants must be employed by Western National Parks Association as a full or part-time team member at the time of application and award notification.</p>

<b>Qualified Use of Funds</b>	The scholarship can be used for leadership or professional development training or to support an experience, such as a job, trade, or other endeavors of inquiry, study, or another form of engagement that develops skills, knowledge, or experience relevant to the missions of WNPA and the National Park Service.
<b>Recipient Requirements</b>	Scholarship recipients are required to submit a final report to WNPA within 60 days of the completion date stated in the application. Review the recipient final report sample on page 5. Recipients will receive 95 percent of the scholarship award in advance, with the remaining 5 percent paid upon fulfillment of the final report requirement. Failure to meet the final report requirement within the allocated time frame will result in a forfeiture of all unpaid funds.
<b>Selection and Notification Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criteria for this program has been established by WNPA.</li> <li>• Submissions will be reviewed in the order received and scored by an internal committee of senior leaders and directors.</li> <li>• Applicants will be notified of the funding decision within 20-days from the date of submission.</li> </ul> <p>WNPA fully supports diversity, equality, and inclusion. WNPA's selection process respects all individuals and gives all applicants equal opportunity.</p>
<b>Submission Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All submissions must be completed through the WNPA web portal. <a href="#">WNPA   Scholarships</a></li> <li>• Applications received in any other format will not be accepted.</li> </ul> <p>If you do not have access to a computer and would like to submit an application, contact the Program Administrator</p>
<b>Timeline</b>	Submissions for the 2025 fiscal year funding cycle will be accepted from October 1, 2024 until September 30, 2025 or until the allocated funding is exhausted.
<b>Program Administrator</b>	Please address questions regarding this scholarship to Julie Tainter, business support manager, via email at <a href="mailto:julie.tainter@wnpa.org">julie.tainter@wnpa.org</a> .



# Sample Application

The application sample outlined below is a guide. All applications must be submitted electronically—[WNPA | Scholarships](#). The information supplied is limited to the space provided and submitted on the electronic form. Applications received in any other format will not be accepted. If you do not have access to a computer and would like to submit an application, contact the Program Administrator.

## PART ONE: Tell Us about Yourself, Applicant Information

1. Name
2. Address, city, state, zip
3. Phone, email

## Current Position at WNPA

1. Job title
2. Work location
3. Supervisor name, phone, email

## PART TWO: Funding Request

1. Name of the leadership, professional, or certification program being pursued.
2. Location of the program.
3. Program start date / Program completion date.
4. Total funding amount you are requesting from WNPA.
5. Is the funding amount requested from WNPA the full cost of the program or certification being pursued?
6. If not, state the full cost and your plans for securing the additional funds. [Response up to 75 words.](#)

## PART THREE: Complete Your Application

1. If selected for this scholarship, specify how you plan to use the funds. [Response up to 150 words.](#)
2. Describe how you have demonstrated leadership during your time at WNPA. [Response up to 250 words.](#)
3. Outline your short-term career goals, 3 to 5 years. [Response up to 125 words.](#)
4. List your long-term career goals, 6 to 10 years. [Response up to 125 words.](#)
5. Share your most meaningful professional achievement(s). [Response up to 250 words.](#)
6. Explain how these achievements relate to (1) your field of study or future goals and (2) the missions of WNPA and the National Park Service. [Response up to 250 words.](#)
7. Summarize the details about the program or certification you would like to pursue and how it will aid in achieving your career goals. [Response up to 250 words.](#)

## PART FOUR: Required Upload

1. Letter of recommendation
  - a. One-page letter of recommendation from a WNPA manager or executive leader.
    - i. File must be a PDF
    - ii. Before uploading, name the file as follows: applicant firstname.lastname.pepe  
Example: john.smith.pepe

# Sample Application

## **PART FIVE: Terms and Conditions—Submit Your Application**

1. By submitting your application, you give WNPA consent to use the name and information you provided for public relations and fundraising in any media now or hereafter known, including, but not limited to, digital and print. If you provide photos and/or videos, all applicants grant an irrevocable perpetual, worldwide, nonexclusive license to WNPA, to reproduce, distribute, display, and create derivative works of the image in connection with WNPA, in any media now or hereafter known, including but not limited to digital and print.
2. If selected to receive this scholarship
  - a. Recipients are required to submit a final report to WNPA within 60 days of the completion date stated in this application.
  - b. WNPA will release 95 percent of the scholarship award to the recipient in advance, with the remaining 5 percent paid upon fulfillment of the final report requirement. Failure to meet the final report requirement within the allocated time frame will result in a forfeiture of all unpaid funds.

**Check to confirm the statement: \_\_\_I, the applicant, have read and accept the stated terms and conditions.**

# Sample Recipient Final Report

This final report form is a guideline. All final reports must be submitted through the WNPA web portal—recipients will be given directions to access the online form. The information supplied is limited to the space provided and submitted on the electronic form. Final Reports received in any other format will not be accepted. If you do not have access to a computer and would like to submit an application, contact the Program Administrator.

## **PART ONE: Reporting Scholarship Recipient**

1. Name, address, city, state, zip, phone, and email
2. Name of the leadership, professional, or certification program
3. Location of the program
4. Program start date / Program completion date
5. Amount of scholarship award

## **PART TWO: Tell Us about Your Pursued Experience**

1. Summarize your experience. [Response up to 250 words.](#)
2. Share a story that was a highlight of your experience. [Response up to 300 words.](#)
3. Describe the outcomes, benefits, or results you gained from your involvement. [Response up to 300 words.](#)
4. Report anything else you feel is significant and important for us to know. [Response up to 250 words.](#)

## **PART THREE: Confirm and Approve**

I declare the

1. Information provided herein is accurate.
2. Submitter of this final report is the scholarship recipient named in Part One.
3. Terms and conditions of the scholarship have been met.
4. Final payment from WNPA is requested.

**I approve this final report for submission to Western National Parks Association.**

Signature and date

# Learn More About

**Western**  
National Parks  
Association

## OUR MISSION

In partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) since 1938, Western National Parks Association (WNPA) advances education, interpretation, research, and community engagement to ensure national parks are increasingly valued by all.

## OUR COMMITMENT

National parks tell the story of America, and WNPA helps share that story. By uncovering the diversity of the landscapes' natural beauty, culture, and heritage, WNPA remains committed to discovery—new knowledge, new understanding, and new ways to engage with humanity.

## OUR ROLE

As a nonprofit education partner of the NPS, WNPA supports more than 70 parks across the West, developing products, services, and programs that enrich the visitor experience, understanding, and appreciation of national parks.

The most visible expression of this mission is the operation of park stores in national park visitor centers, with many of the offerings developed and published by WNPA. Each store is unique, presenting products that give guests a tangible and enduring connection to the park's unique themes and diverse purposes—its majestic scenery, biodiversity, fascinating natural and cultural history, and stories of struggle, triumph, and justice. Visitors find a variety of educational materials, from trail and field guides to in-depth academic studies, along with authentic arts and crafts, collectible park logo items, and even food products that connect with the park's diverse cultures, communities, and ecosystems. Young guests can discover children's books, educational toys, and popular Junior Ranger merchandise. Award-winning books and products extend visitors' experiences far beyond their time in the park.



Visitors at The National Parks Store enjoy the White Sands National Park book launch with author Susan Lamb.

The National Parks Store in Tucson, Arizona, offers a variety of educational programs. Past topics include Native basketry, flute making, pottery techniques, and Navajo rug weaving, with attendance exceeding five thousand people annually. The premiere community event of the year is the sponsorship of The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books. The Pavilion provides the opportunity for 20 national parks from the western United States to connect with more than 140,000 festival attendees, bringing national parks to the people and the diverse communities they serve.



Two children interacting with a park ranger at The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books in Tucson, Arizona.

Along with educational programming, WNPA provides direct financial aid to the national parks, supporting cultural, historical, and educational activities developed by park rangers. These activities enhance visitor experiences, create opportunities to inclusively connect with youth, and engage diverse local communities. Thousands of events have been funded, including an international youth Indigenous cultural exchange, living history demonstrations and encampments, several cultural festivals, Junior Ranger camps, art exhibitions, and archaeological and geographical surveys.

Historically, WNPA has funded a broad range of research projects, all of which help advance the management, preservation, and interpretation of our national parks. Supporting research is more than just a way to amplify the efforts of National Park Service partners; it is a means to help reveal and share the important stories parks hold to advance equity, diversity, inclusivity, and justice for all park visitors and their communities.

To learn more about Western National Parks Association, visit [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org).



# Partner Parks

## Western National Parks Association

### ARIZONA

Canyon de Chelly National Monument  
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument  
Chiricahua National Monument  
Coronado National Memorial  
Fort Bowie National Historic Site  
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site  
Montezuma Castle National Monument  
Navajo National Monument  
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
Saguaro National Park  
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument  
The National Parks Store  
Tonto National Monument  
Tumacácori National Historical Park  
Tuzigoot National Monument  
Walnut Canyon National Monument  
Wupatki National Monument

### CALIFORNIA

Channel Islands National Park  
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site  
John Muir National Historic Site  
Mojave National Preserve  
Pinnacles National Park  
Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial  
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park  
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

### COLORADO

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site  
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park  
Curecanti National Recreation Area  
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve  
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

### KANSAS

Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park  
Fort Larned National Historic Site  
Fort Scott National Historic Site  
Nicodemus National Historic Site

### MONTANA & WYOMING

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area  
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

### NEVADA

Great Basin National Park  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area  
Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument



### NEW MEXICO

Aztec Ruins National Monument  
Bandelier National Monument  
Capulin Volcano National Monument  
Carlsbad Caverns National Park  
Chaco Culture National Historical Park  
El Malpais National Monument  
El Morro National Monument  
Fort Union National Monument  
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument  
Pecos National Historical Park  
Petroglyph National Monument  
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument  
White Sands National Park

### OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Chickasaw National Recreation Area  
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

### TEXAS

Texas Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument  
Big Thicket National Preserve  
Chamizal National Memorial  
Fort Davis National Historic Site  
Guadalupe Mountains National Park  
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area  
Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park  
Park Padre Island National Seashore  
Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park  
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

### UTAH

Golden Spike National Historical Park  
Timpanogos Cave National Monument

### TRAILS

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail  
Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail  
Santa Fe National Historic Trail  
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

**To learn more about  
Western National Parks  
Association,  
visit [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)**