

MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK FOUNDATION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The MRPF Student Scholarship Program is made possible through the Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation scholarship partner program. The MRPF scholarship program has been created to promote and enable excellence in the field of park and recreation. The scholarship program is designed to accomplish this goal by providing financial assistance to juniors, seniors and graduate students who are majoring in a Minnesota accredited four-year curriculum with a park and recreation emphasis and display excellence in their abilities, leadership qualities, job experience and commitment to the park and recreation field. The scholarship program includes up to four \$1,000 scholarships with up to one designated for graduate students and the remainder for under graduates. This scholarship program is not intended for professionals.

ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibles must be a junior, senior or graduate student.
- Eligibles must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 overall and 3.2 major.
- Eligibles must be enrolled in one of the following:
 - Therapeutic Recreation
 - Park and Recreation Administration
 - Municipal Recreation
 - Recreation Resource Management
 - Park Planning
 - Park Programming
 - Recreation Leadership
 - Resource Interpretation

CRITERIA OF SELECTION

Applicant's academic background.....	50%
Recommendations.....	10%
Responses to written questions.....	10%
Interview.....	30%

(Focusing on professional promise and contributions to the field of park and recreation.)

APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT

- Application form (see attached application form)
- Transcript
- Response to Scholarship Essay Questions
- Two letters of recommendation:
 - one from a college professor in your major
 - one from a supervisor in a recreation related work or volunteer experience.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Scholarship recipients must submit a paid fee statement verifying enrollment in an approved accredited program prior to receiving scholarship.

TIME TABLE

Oct 1	Completed scholarship applications due at City of Fridley Parks & Recreation office (5 p.m.)
Oct 5	Committee screening of applications
Oct 12	Notification to applicants and finalists
Oct 26	Finalist interviews between 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – location to be determined
Nov 2	Notification of candidates and recipients
Nov 15	MRPF Scholarship Awards Luncheon at MRPA Annual Conference in St. Paul

Mail completed scholarship application information to:

Jack Kirk
Director of Parks & Recreation
6431 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432

MRPF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ Date _____

Permanent Home Address Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

*Present Address (if
different from above)* Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

GPA Cumulative _____ GPA in Major Courses _____

Attach a copy of your transcript to the application. Area of emphasis _____

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Are you a member of the MRPA student section? _____

How long have you been a member? _____

EDUCATION INFORMATION

Current year in school _____

Junior college, vocational school, college or university

Name _____ Name _____

Dates of attendance: _____ Dates of attendance: _____

From _____ to _____ From _____ to _____

Attach an additional sheet if necessary

JOB EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTEER AND UNPAID WORK EXPERIENCE

Please list your most recent experience first.

Employer _____

Address _____

Your Title _____

Length of Employment: From _____ To _____

Duties _____

(over)

Employer _____

Address _____

Your Title _____

Length of Employment: From _____ To _____

Duties _____

_____ Employer _____

Address _____

Your Title _____

Length of Employment: From _____ To _____

Duties _____

Attach additional sheet if necessary

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (clubs, community activities, etc.):

Name of Organization _____

Activity _____

Length of Involvement: From _____ To _____

Description of your involvement _____

Positions held or special honors _____

Attach additional sheet if necessary

MRRP SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY QUESTIONS

All applicants must submit a response to both parts A and B. Each response should be not more than one page, double spaced, typewritten.

Each applicant must submit a response to one of the questions in part C, no more than one page, double spaced, typewritten.

PART A - BACKGROUND AND INTERESTS

Please describe your interests, involvement and accomplishments in the field of park and recreation (job, school or volunteer experiences are acceptable.)

PART B - THE PARK AND RECREATION FIELD TODAY

In your opinion, what are the challenges in society that will have the most impact on the specific park and recreation field that you have chosen as a career? Be specific in your supporting arguments.

PART C - SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL SITUATIONS (Choose One)

1. You are a recreational therapist in a hospital setting. The nursing director has challenged the benefits of and need for your department on the unit. Justify the therapeutic recreation field as you would present it to nursing staff. You may determine a specific unit in the hospital if you wish.
2. A patient/client is new to your health care/home care facility. Explain how you determine needs or problem areas, how you develop a recreation plan with goals, objectives and tasks, and how you evaluate the progress of the patient/client.
3. What role should competitive sports play in an overall municipal recreation program?
4. Teenagers have proven to be a "tough sell" for many recreation providers. Why is this true and how would you get them involved in your overall recreation program?
5. In providing recreation services to the public, an agency has a responsibility to reach out to the clientele in an effort to get them to participate. How far should an agency go? Where does the agency's responsibility end and where does the individual's responsibility begin?
6. What type of recreation programs should be self-supporting and what types should be tax supported? Explain why you feel this way.
7. Should facility users pay for:
 - a. All costs associated with recreation facilities?
 - b. Some of the costs and if so, which ones?
 - c. None of the costs? In other words, should the facility costs be paid strictly through general taxation?

(over)

8. What are the potential advantages and disadvantages of having youth or adult athletic leagues run by a volunteer association? If you had to choose between operating the league through your department or having an association run it, what would your choice be? Why?
9. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of involving the public in the planning process.
10. Discuss the management considerations that a planner should be sensitive to in planning a recreation area.
11. Support or rebut the argument that since wilderness is a single, specialized use of land it has no place in an agency whose land is to be managed under multiple use principles.
12. Describe the ways you could lessen the impact of a major campground on the land and water resources on which it is located.
13. *HYPOTHETICAL CASE:* The City of Burnsville has just taken over an interpretive nature center previously owned by the Burnsville school district. You have been hired by the city of Burnsville to be their first naturalist. What would you do to stimulate use of this center by non-school groups?
14. You have just finished leading a four-hour field program entitled *The World of the Whitetail Deer* without seeing a single deer! Would you consider the program a success or a failure? Why?