

# Southern Minnesota Recreation and Park Association Student Scholarship

## Background

Southern Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (SMRPA) has a long history of gathering professionals on a monthly basis to discuss topics, programming and trends within the recreation field. SMRPA has the unique distinction of having two Universities within our region, that offer recreation, park and leisure studies as a major course of study. SMRPA has committed to this scholarship with the following guidelines.

## Purpose

The SMRPA Scholarship was established to recognize those students pursuing a degree in the field of Recreation, Parks and/or leisure studies at Minnesota State University-Mankato or Winona State University. One scholarship recipient will be selected from each University and one additional, "at large", as funds allow, equaling \$1000 each, will be distributed each academic year, following the recommendation by the Review Committee.

## Eligibility & Weighting of Application

- Applicants must be enrolled as full time students at either Minnesota State University-Mankato or Winona State University
  - Applicants must be declared a Recreation, Parks and/or Leisure studies Major with either Junior or Senior standing
  - Demonstrate a minimum GPA of 2.50, within the major
  - Applicants must have successfully completed a minimum of 12 credits of course work with the RPLS, RTTR or similar prefix
  - Documented evidence of work or volunteering in recreation or related field and/or within your University department (reference on application with contact information acceptable)
  - Personal essay, 400-500 words stating your future goals in the profession and how your experiences to date have shaped you to achieve those goals
- \* Applications will be weighted based on work and volunteering, then essay, then GPA.

## Application Timeline

- Applications will be available Spring Semester through your University Recreation Department
- Application Deadline: **Noon, April 16, 2021**
- The award(s) will be announced at the May meeting of SMRPA
- Award recipients will be invited to attend the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference the following fall. Full MRPA Conference Package will be included with Scholarship. Meals and lodging will be included if recipient volunteers at the conference.

## Application Process Checklist

- Completed application form
- A copy of your transcript (an unofficial transcript is acceptable)
- Personal essay

Please submit all completed application materials to  
[rschaber@stcharlesmn.org](mailto:rschaber@stcharlesmn.org) or this address:

City of St. Charles  
Attn: Rick Schaber  
830 Whitewater Avenue  
St. Charles, MN 55972  
(507) 932-3020

## Review Committee

Award recipients will be selected by a review committee comprised of four members of SMRPA.



**S.M.R.P.A.**  
Southern Minnesota Recreation and Park's Association