South Suburban Park & Recreation
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

## Mission Statement

**To enhance the quality of leisure services to participants of member park districts and recreation agencies located in the south suburban Chicago Metropolitan area through professional leadership, interaction, diverse programming, education/training sessions, legislative issues and special projects that will continually benefit all those whom they serve.**

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# 2026 Graduate Scholarship Application $500

## General Information

The South Suburban Park and Recreation Professional Association established an educational scholarship to assist those professionals in furthering their educational endeavors. A $500.00 scholarship is available to those enrolled in graduate level course work to enhance the field of park, recreation, conservation, therapeutic recreation, massage therapy, and/or leisure services. Applicants will be judged on related professional experiences, leadership, demonstration of professional involvement and academic achievement. Payment of the award will be made to the scholarship recipient at the December 10, 2026 SSPRPA meeting.

## Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Be a member of the South Suburban Park and Recreation Professional Association at the time of application for at least two years.
- Be currently enrolled in a Masters Degree program to enhance the field of park, recreation, conservation, therapeutic recreation, massage therapy, and/or leisure services. These include, but are not limited to: MPA, MBA, MRA
- Show proof of enrollment in a University level Masters program by providing transcripts.
- Carry a minimum of 2.5/4.0 or 3.0/5.0 grade point average for all courses of study.

## Application Process

1. Complete the application form.
2. Sign the application.
3. Submit copy current grades and GPA.
4. Include a resume outlining academic achievement, related professional experiences, leadership and demonstration of professional involvement.
5. Include a personal statement describing your vision of this field, how your Masters degree will enhance it, personal volunteer experience, leadership roles and innovative techniques, services or programs that you developed or implemented.
6. Include one letter of recommendation from another professional in the field of parks and recreation.
7. Provide proof of enrollment by submitting college transcripts.
8. Application must be postmarked by November 20, 2026.
9. Mail or e-mail application, personal statement, resume and letter of recommendation to the chairperson listed below.

Marina Uher, CTRS, CPRP
Superintendent of Recreation
South West Special Recreation Association
12521 S. Kostner
Alsip, IL 60803
muher@swsra.com

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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

# 2026 Graduate Scholarship Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell / Work Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

University: _____

GPA: _____ On a Scale of: _____

Masters Program: _____

Applicants' Printed Name: _____

Applicants' Signature: _____Date _____

**Application must be postmarked or received via e-mail by November 20, 2026 to:**

Marina Uher, CTRS, CPRP
Superintendent of Recreation
South West Special Recreation Association
12521 S. Kostner
Alsip, IL 60803
muher@swsra.com