AZA Training Course Scholarships - Eligibility Guide

Please Note: You may only apply to ONE scholarship each year.

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Other Scholarship Opportunities for AZA Courses

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*Covers tuition fee only.

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Animal Training Applications
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Animal Transport for Animal Care Professionals
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Disney’s Animal Kingdom Diversity Advancement
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Margaret A. Dankworth Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Animal Welfare: Evidence-based Management
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Margaret A. Dankworth Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Avian Management, Biology and Conservation
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Conservation Education: Effective Program Design
Disney’s Animal Kingdom Diversity Advancement
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Creating Successful Exhibits
Disney’s Animal Kingdom Diversity Advancement
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Crocodilian Biology and Captive Management
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial
John L. Behler Scholarship

Institutional Records Keeping
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial
Zoo Registrars Association

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Managing for Success: Career Development
Disney’s Animal Kingdom Diversity Advancement
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Margaret A. Dankworth Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Managing for Success: Organizational Development
Disney’s Animal Kingdom Diversity Advancement
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Margaret A. Dankworth Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Managing Animal Enrichment & Training Programs
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Population Management I
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Population Management II
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Principles of Aquarium Husbandry, Design and Leadership
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Principles of Elephant Management I
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial
Elephant Managers Association

Principles of Elephant Management II
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

Principles of Program Animal Management
Emerging Aquarium Professional*
Emerging Zoo Professional*
Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit
Jeff Swanagan Memorial
Robert O. Wagner Memorial

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**Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit Scholarship**

**Description**
The Gary Clarke & Clayton Freiheit Scholarship honors two people who demonstrated a commitment to mentoring younger people in their careers within AZA zoos and aquariums. It is named after Gary Clarke, former director of Topeka Zoo, and Clayton Freiheit, former President/CEO of Denver Zoological Gardens. Clarke was a founding member of the AAZPA (now AZA). Both Clarke and Freiheit served terms as Chairs of the AZA Accreditation Commission and as AZA Board Presidents. This scholarship provides opportunities to individuals who demonstrate potential rising leadership within the zoo and aquarium industry.

This scholarship is managed by AZA. The scholarship may be applied toward any of the AZA Professional Development Courses.

**Eligibility Requirements**
Preference will be given to those whose current work demonstrates excellence in furthering the institution’s mission as well as promoting collaboration within the institution, with other AZA institutions, or with local community partners. Applicant must be an AZA individual member and employed at an AZA-accredited institution or AZA-certified facility. International members of AZA facilities are also welcome to apply. Those who received an AZA scholarship within the past three years will not be considered for this award. This scholarship is merit based.

*Covers tuition fee only.

**Margaret A. Dankworth Management Scholarship**

**Description**
Margaret (Peg) Dankworth was born in Bellaire, Ohio in 1920. She received her B.A. degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in Business Administration and Economics and an M.A. degree from New York University.

In January 1972, when the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) first became an independent association, Peg was chosen as its first Executive Secretary (later in Peg’s tenure this position title was changed to Executive Director). After handling Association affairs during its crucial early years, and being instrumental in establishing the AZA Management School, she retired from AZA in March 1975. She remained active in historic preservation organizations and activities and was owner of Historic Morristown, Inc. until she passed away in March 2011.

This scholarship is sponsored and managed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to provide leadership opportunities for professionals in the zoo and aquarium field. The scholarship may be applied towards either Managing for Success: Career Development or Managing for Success: Organizational Development.

**Requirements**
Successful applicants should demonstrate leadership ability or leadership potential and a commitment to professional growth. Applicant must be an AZA individual member and employed at an AZA-accredited institution or AZA-certified facility. International members of AZA facilities are also welcome to apply. Those who received an AZA scholarship within the past three years will not be considered for this award. This scholarship is merit based. Recipient will be asked to make some brief remarks at the closing banquet of the course session.

*Last updated May 2017*
**Disney’s Animal Kingdom Diversity Advancement Scholarship**

**DESCRIPTION**
The purpose of the Diversity Advancement Scholarship is to provide support for training in an education or interpretation specialty at the AZA Professional Development Courses. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums recognizes the value of human diversity in all endeavors. Diversity is the inclusion of different physical, social and cultural identities among people in a defined employment or market setting, including along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability, preferred language, learning styles and work styles. As the composition of the country’s population changes, it is of particular importance to cultivate support for racial and ethnic diversity within AZA institutions and in programs that are responsive to the diverse communities those institutions serve.

As part of the AZA’s larger commitment to diversity, this scholarship is sponsored by Disney’s Animal Kingdom to provide support for professional training for members of an underrepresented group within the zoo and aquarium movement. The scholarship may be applied to any of the following courses:
- Conservation Education: Effective Program Design
- Creating Successful Exhibits
- Managing for Success: Career Development
- Managing for Success: Organizational Development

*Covers tuition fee only.

**Requirements**
Members of an underrepresented group who are employed in an AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium may apply. International members of AZA facilities are also welcome to apply. Applicant must be an AZA individual member. Those who received an AZA scholarship within the past three years will not be considered for this award. This scholarship is merit based.

**Emerging Aquarium Professional Tuition Scholarship***

**DESCRIPTION**
Each year as part of the February session of professional development courses, students and instructors bring items from their home institutions and communities to donate to silent and live auctions conducted at the end of the week of courses. Revenue from the auctions supports the Professional Development Program and since 2012 has funded two emerging professional tuition scholarships, one for a zoo professional and one for an aquarium professional.

*This scholarship covers the cost of tuition only* to any non-management related AZA course.

**Requirements**
Current employees who have worked in an aquarium or related facility as a full-time, paid employee for less than five (5) years cumulatively may apply. Time spent as a volunteer or part-time work should not be included. Applicant must be an AZA individual member. International members of AZA facilities are also welcome to apply. Those who received an AZA scholarship within the past three years will not be considered for this award. This scholarship is merit based.
EMERGING ZOO PROFESSIONAL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP*

DESCRIPTION
Each year as part of the February session of professional development courses, students and instructors bring items from their home institutions and communities to donate to silent and live auctions conducted at the end of the week of courses. Revenue from the auctions supports the Professional Development Program and since 2012 has funded two emerging professional tuition scholarships, one for a zoo professional and one for an aquarium professional.

This scholarship covers the cost of tuition only to any non-management related AZA course.

REQUIREMENTS
Current employees who have worked in an aquarium or related facility as a full-time, paid employee for less than five (5) years cumulatively may apply. Time spent as a volunteer or part-time work should not be included. Applicant must be an AZA individual member. International members of AZA facilities are also welcome to apply. Those who received an AZA scholarship within the past three years will not be considered for this award. This scholarship is merit based.

* Covers tuition fee only.

JEFF SWANAGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

DESCRIPTION
The late Jeff Swanagan was the Executive Director of the Columbus Zoo. His career was shaped by his experience as an educator, when he saw how deeply people were affected when they connected to the wonders of nature. Jeff had an unwavering belief that zoos and aquariums are about people as much as they are about animals. He knew that people visit zoos not just to see animals, but to spend time together. Jeff saw endless potential – both to touch the lives of people and to save the lives of animals. To capture this idea, he coined the phrase “touch the heart to teach the mind.” Simply getting people into the Zoo wasn’t enough – he wanted to inspire and engage them, to get them invested in each other, animals, and conservation. Jeff knew that without inspiring people, without touching their hearts, you cannot teach their minds nor hope to make the world a better place.

This scholarship is sponsored by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and offered in memory of Jeff Swanagan. The scholarship promotes Jeff Swanagan’s philosophy that you must “touch the heart to teach the mind.” This scholarship may be applied towards any of the AZA professional development courses.

REQUIREMENTS
Applicant must be an AZA individual member and employed at an AZA-accredited institution or AZA-certified facility. International members of AZA facilities are also welcome to apply. Those who received an AZA scholarship within the past three years will not be considered for this award. This scholarship is merit based.

Within four months of attending the AZA Professional Training course, the recipient will submit to AZA an article describing how participating in the course helped them “touch the heart to teach the mind,” to will be published in an issue of CONNECT magazine.

* Covers tuition fee only.

Last updated May 2017
ROBERT O. WAGNER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

DESCRIPTION
Robert O. Wagner was Executive Director of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) from 1975 until 1992, and AZA’s Chief Administrative Officer from 1992 until his retirement in 1996. During Bob’s tenure, the Association grew from 636 members to over 6,000; from a $30,000 to a multi-million dollar annual budget, and a Conservation Grants Fund exceeding $3 million.

This scholarship is sponsored and managed by AZA to provide opportunities to individuals who demonstrate extensive involvement in AZA programs or other relevant conservation activities. The scholarship may be applied toward any of the AZA professional development courses.

REQUIREMENTS
Applicant must be an AZA individual member and employed at an AZA-accredited institution or AZA-certified facility. International members of AZA facilities are also welcome to apply. Those who received an AZA scholarship within the past three years will not be considered for this award. This scholarship is merit based.

Preference will be given to those holding a supervisory position and have shown growth within their professional life. At least one letter of support must be from a supervisor, this must include a statement that you will be able to apply your newly acquired knowledge at your institution and that the use of this knowledge is sought by the institution.

*Covers tuition fee only.

AZA Scholarship Application Period
Scholarship applications become available annually from mid-May to mid-July.

2018-2019 Scholarship Cycle
Application Period Begins – Monday, May 14th 2018
Applications Due – Friday, July 13th 2018 (Midnight)