

2026 North Dakota Recreation & Park Association Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen Memorial Professional Development Scholarship Information and Application Form

Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen:

The Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen Memorial Professional Development Scholarship is named for an influential professional in the field of parks and recreation in North Dakota. Dr. Jorgensen was born in Luck, Wis., received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, master's degree from the University of Minnesota, and doctorate from Indiana University. She taught at the University of North Dakota from 1963- 1988 as a professor of recreation and remained active in NDRPA until her death on Sept. 23, 2009.

Professional Development Scholarship Criteria:

NDRPA has scholarships available for professionals who seek to enhance their knowledge through professional certifications, conference, advanced degrees, or other learning opportunities. Selection of recipients will be based on demonstrated professional achievement, commitment to the field and educational pursuit. NDRPA will award monetary scholarships up to \$1,500 annually on a reimbursement basis after required documentation is submitted. Examples of professional development that may be supported include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Certifications such as CPRP, CPSI, etc.
- NDRPA State Conference or other training
- NRPA Annual Conference or other training

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a full-time professional in a recreation/leisure/natural resource/tourism service position for at least one year (may be non- consecutive 12 months for seasonal positions).
- Must be a NDRPA member in good standing.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are members of NRPA at the time of application.

Application Deadline:

Completed applications must be received by April 1, 2026. Successful candidates will be invited to attend the 2026 NDRPA State Conference & Awards Banquet Sept. 15-17 in Dickinson, N.D., where they will be awarded their scholarships.

How to Apply:

The application form and required attachments may be sent electronically (preferred) or mailed to the address below.

Email: ndrpaoffice@gmail.com

Questions: Call Shannon at 701-355-4458

Mail: NDRPA
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 1091
Bismarck, ND 58502

Scholarship recipients will receive advance notification in order to make arrangements to attend the NDRPA State Conference & Awards Banquet. Beyond attending the conference, recipients will be required to submit an article about their professional development experience, supported by the scholarship, for NDRPA's quarterly magazine *FOCUS*.

About NDRPA:

The North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization whose mission is advancing parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota. NDRPA is a state affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Any individual or organization with an interest in North Dakota parks, recreation, natural resources and/or tourism is encouraged to join NDRPA. NDRPA has more than 900 members, including park districts, park board members, professionals, educational institutions, students and allied organizations and individuals.

Learn more at www.ndrpa.com.

**2026 North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen Memorial Professional Development Scholarship**

Application Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Mailing Address: _____

University/College Attended: _____

Major Area of Study: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Contact Phone #: Cell: _____ School: _____ Home: _____

Number of Years Employed in Parks and Recreation Field: _____

Class: Sophomore: _____ Junior: _____ Senior: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

NDRPA Member Since: Year _____ to _____ NRPA Member Since: Year _____ to _____

Brief Description of Purpose of Scholarship Funds: _____

Financial Need:

Amount Requested	
Applicant's Portion	
Employer's Portion	
Other Funds (describe)	
Total Estimated Cost	

Application MUST Include:

- Completed application form
- Letter of request which includes the following:
 - Purpose for which the scholarship is being requested
 - Explanation of the benefits to be gained both personally and professionally by receiving the scholarship
 - How the training will enhance the applicant's agency/employer and the parks and recreation field
 - Applicant's involvement in NDRPA activities and/or other professional activities
- Letter of recommendation from supervisor

Please complete scholarship application as thoroughly as possible.

Please submit by April 1, 2026, to:

Email: ndrpaoffice@gmail.com

Mail:

NDRPA

Attn: Scholarship Committee

P.O. Box 1091

Bismarck, ND 58502