

Financial Assistance and Fundraising Resource



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Introduction

Welcome to the AORE Financial Assistance and Fundraising Resource. This guide is meant to help you cover and cut the costs to attend the AORE Annual Conference. We believe that everyone in the outdoor recreation and education industry, including you, is important and should have the opportunity to attend the AORE conference. There may be more funding, resources, and ways to save out there than you think and we are here to show you some of them. This certainly does not cover every resource, so if you have anything to add to this guide, please contact one of the Co-Chairs of the Student Development Committee. Thank you for supporting AORE and we look forward to seeing you at the next AORE Annual Conference!

Scholarships

AORE Student Scholarship

The Student Scholarships are granted to students that have made significant contributions to their department, academic institutions or private outdoor related program through their involvement and leadership. These students must also have shown a commitment to scholarship through: research, honors, self-improvement through continuing education, certifications, presentations, participation in professional organizations, internships, etc.

Required Qualifications:

- Current AORE Student Professional Membership
- Must have attended the AORE Conference previously
- Be a current student in good academic standing
- Must have the goal of entering the field of Outdoor Recreation and Education

Successful Applicants Will Have:

- Made significant contributions to their department, academic institutions or private outdoor related program through their involvement and leadership.
- Shown a commitment to scholarship through: research, honors, self-improvement through continuing education, certifications, presentations, participation in professional organizations, internships, etc.

Expectations at the Conference for Scholarship Recipients Include:

- Attendance at the Scholarship Recipient Meeting on Wednesday Night
- Attendance at the Student Social on Wednesday night

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- An estimated 8-10 hours of time assisting the Student Development Committee with various events, including the Student and Career Center
- Attendance at the Student Annual Business Meeting
- Attendance at the AORE Awards Banquet

Applicants need to provide a completed application electronically by September 15, 2016. To apply or for questions regarding the student scholarship contact: Chris Bullard – bullard@pdx.edu – 478.414.8490 or Jason Gosch - jgosch@mail.usf.edu - 813.817.2268.

Institutional Scholarships

Academic programs often offer scholarships to students for things such as attending conferences and furthering your education. This funding may come through your academic program, your campus recreation department or the student government association. Check in with these sources to see if these opportunities exist.

Institutional Funding

Student Development

Some programs will have a budget set aside to spend on student development. Check with your academic department for any available student development funding. As with any scholarship, leave plenty of time for the applications to be processed and reviewed. This can potentially take up to six to eight weeks to be completed. Be sure to know whether the scholarship will be awarded up front or if it will be allocated post-conference as a reimbursement. If you will be reimbursed, you will have to plan to be out the money needed to cover the conference expenses for a few weeks while your reimbursement is processed. It is important to submit the reimbursement paperwork as soon as you can to minimize the turn-around time. Make sure that you KEEP ALL RECEIPTS!!

Graduate Students: also check with your Graduate School department or graduate student government as well as your individual program department. They too often offer scholarships or financial aid for professional development. Your application may be more competitive if you are involved in the association or the conference. Participate in committees, present a session or poster presentation to increase your chancing of getting funding awarded.

Fundraising Techniques

Tye-Dye T-shirt sale
Car wash
Bake Sale
Letters to friends and family
Gear Sale (institutional)

If there are multiple students in your program who are interested in attending the conference, you may be able to set up the conference as a trip. This may allow you to access university vehicles if the conference is near and you will be able to split cost such as transportation, lodging and food.

Sharing Resources / Cutting Costs

There are plenty of ways to cut costs at the conference. Sharing resources and strategic planning will help you dramatically reduce your expenses.

Sharing Resources

Sharing a room can take hundreds off your final expenditure. Most of the hotel rooms come with two queen beds, make good use of them. There's always plenty of floor space. Who are we kidding, we sleep on the ground for our recreation, why let perfectly good floor go to waste?

Carpooling is another way you can spread the cost out. Often there are shuttles that will take you to and from the airport. Sometimes these are complimentary, other times they are not. In the case of the latter, try to arrange rides for more than one person. If you know someone that will have a car at the conference location, see if they are willing to make a pick-up or drop-off run.

If you are driving to the conference, see who might be along your way. Gas money can help you get there and eliminate the need for others to pay an arm and a leg to fly or rent a car.

Strategic Planning

Take advantage of the AORE Room Block pricing. AORE arranges a number of rooms at a discounted price at each conference location. These rooms are often on-site so there are no transportation costs.

Don't eat out every night. Eating out can be pricey, so plan to bring at least some snacks with you. You can call ahead to check whether the hotel room will have a refrigerator or microwave. Plan accordingly and think simple, we can live on non-refrigerated food for a week in the woods, doing it for four days in a hotel room shouldn't be so bad. Just remember, you will most likely have to plan ahead for this as conference locations might not have a grocery store in walking distance.

Closing

We hope this guide has given you some ideas to think about. This certainly does not cover every resource, so if you have anything to add to this guide, please contact one of the Co-Chairs of the Student Development Committee. Thank you for supporting AORE and we look forward to seeing you at the next AORE Annual Conference!