



# DO YOU KNOW AN EMERGING LEADER?



**THE CHRIS STUART EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS OPEN!**

## APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, you will need to fill out the accompanying form, write and submit a letter of reasoning that explains why you are applying and why you feel that you should be selected and submit a letter of recommendation from a current supervisor that supports your application. More details on both letters can be found on the application page. **The deadline to apply is August 28, 2026.**

## ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

As the recipient of the 2026 Chris Stuart Emerging Leaders Scholarship, you will be recognized at the Opening General Session on October 7, 2026. You also will gain access to 40+ breakout sessions, both days of the trade show, including lunches, the Annual Reunion Party and both Keynote Sessions.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To qualify for this scholarship, you should be:

- Under 35 years of age
- Working in a non-managerial position at a seasonal or year-round waterpark, pool or aquatic center or attending college as a full-time student

*Please note that being a current Emerging Leaders (EL) Member is not required, but current EL members will be given first consideration. Visit [Waterparks.org/Emerging\\_Leaders](https://Waterparks.org/Emerging_Leaders) to learn more about membership.*

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

for the 2026 Chris Stuart Emerging Leaders Scholarship. This program is named in honor of Chris Stuart, a WWA Hall of Fame member who was known for his kindness and generosity in mentoring those who worked for him and who were up and coming in the industry.

The World Waterpark Association selects one recipient each year who will then travel to the Annual Symposium & Trade Show to experience the industry's most influential gathering of water leisure professionals. This scholarship covers all of the standard expenses, including flight, hotel, food per diems and registration.

## World Waterpark Association Show

**OCTOBER 6-9, 2026**

**PARIS LAS VEGAS  
LAS VEGAS, NV U.S.A.**



## APPLICANT INFORMATION 2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Park where employed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of park where employed: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's contact phone number (to be used for phone interviews, if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

How many months/years have you been employed in the waterpark/aquatics industry: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you under the age of 35?    Yes    No

Are you a current Emerging Leaders Member?    Yes    No

Supervisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### APPLICANT'S LETTER OF REASONING:

Please attach a letter that explains in detail why you are applying for this scholarship and why you feel that you should be chosen as this year's recipient. This letter may discuss what you hope to gain from attending the WWA Show and what your future career goals are both within and outside the water leisure industry.

### SUPERVISOR'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

Please attach a letter of recommendation written by a supervisor that speaks to why you should be considered for this opportunity. This letter may discuss your overall quality of job performance, your future plans within the water leisure industry and your overall character. This letter should come from a full-time staff member at your current facility, possibly an Aquatics Manager, Operations Manager, GM or some other similar title.

**Return applications to Cathy Haggarty  
at [cathy@waterparks.org](mailto:cathy@waterparks.org)**

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Call: +1-913-599-0300**

*Note: Should a recipient be unable to attend after being awarded the scholarship, the scholarship will pass to another candidate. There is no cash value for this scholarship and is only intended to allow a recipient to attend the WWA Show.*



**APPLY BY**



**AUG  
28<sup>TH</sup>**