

## Financial Aid for Educators

Dear Scholarship Applicant,

Educators hold a special place in our heart. Road Scholar was founded by two education administrators, David Bianco and Marty Knowlton, and nearly half of our participants were, or are currently, in the field of education. That's no surprise, because Road Scholar is a university of the world and learning is at the core of the Road Scholar mission.

Though being an educator is one of the noblest callings, unfortunately in today's world, the financial reward educators receive doesn't come close to matching the value they provide society. That's why we have created a special kind of financial assistance specifically for active and retired educators. We call it the "Professional Educators Assistance Recognition" Scholarship — or "PEAR" for short.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we are able to ensure that educators with limited financial means are able to experience a Road Scholar learning adventure. Through our financial assistance program, we can turn the dream of experiencing one of our thousands of educational travel adventures into a reality. If you are over 50 years of age, are currently working in or have retired from any educational organization or system — this includes public or private early childhood, primary, secondary, and further or higher education — and are facing financial barriers preventing you from participating in a Road Scholar program, you are eligible to apply.

Generally, scholarships are awarded to recipients whose household income is less than 80 percent of the median household income in their state of residency. Income eligibility alone doesn't guarantee a scholarship, nor does a household income higher than the guideline automatically disqualify you. You will also have the opportunity in a personal statement to tell us why you are requesting a scholarship. This may include special personal, financial or medical circumstances.

We encourage you to submit an application and share your story with us. Pick an eligible program you'd like to attend in the United States or Canada and use the personal statement section of the application to tell us why this program inspires you and what circumstances make it difficult for you to attend without a scholarship. We recommend that you submit your application at least three months prior to your selected program start date. If your application is approved, we'll award you a scholarship toward the cost of the program.

**Please read the following sections for important information about the application requirements and what to expect if your application is approved.**

We're so glad you want to experience the joys of learning with Road Scholar. We can't wait for you to join us.

Sincerely,

Your Friends at Road Scholar

P.S. Not sure your career, full- or part-time work in education qualifies you for the PEAR Scholarship? See our list of educator roles in this packet or visit [www.roadscholar.org/PEAR](http://www.roadscholar.org/PEAR). Also, review our other financial assistance options at [www.roadscholar.org/financialaid](http://www.roadscholar.org/financialaid).



## THE BASICS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PEAR SCHOLARSHIP

### Who can apply for the PEAR Scholarship?

We accept scholarship applications from anyone who meets all of the following criteria:

- At least 50 years of age
- Employed in or retired from a full- or part-time position in the field of education
- Lives in the United States
- Demonstrates financial need in the personal statement and/or in the financial documentation
- Has not taken a Road Scholar program in the last two years and is not currently enrolled in a Road Scholar program

### Which programs are eligible for the PEAR Scholarship?

You can apply for a scholarship toward the cost of any program that meets all of the following criteria:

- It costs NO MORE than \$2,500.
- It takes place in the United States or Canada. Please note that deposit requirements vary by program.
- Your application must include the program number and date of a specific program that costs \$2,500 or less.
- If you are awarded a scholarship, you must apply it toward the program and date specified in your application. You cannot reserve it for a program to be selected in the future.

### What happens if your application is approved?

Here's how the scholarship works:

- The scholarship is applied toward the cost of the program you selected in your application.
- The amount of the scholarship award will be up to \$2,000, based on the program cost and the required deposit.
- At minimum, you will pay the applicable deposit for the program selected.
- You will pay the balance of the program cost after the scholarship has been applied.

### What happens if you send in an incomplete application?

To make sure your application is reviewed, please use the checklist at the end of the application. Incomplete applications cannot be reviewed. We will not be able to notify you if your application is incomplete.

### What if your plans change?

We know that in rare instances a scholarship recipient may have to adjust their travel plans. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Remember: Your program deposit is non-refundable and is used to cover our costs if you have to cancel your program or transfer to another.
- If you cancel your enrollment in the program, the scholarship becomes void.
- If Road Scholar cancels your program, the scholarship can be transferred to another program without fees.
- If after enrollment you decide to transfer to another eligible program, the scholarship may be transferred along with the enrollment. The corresponding transfer fees will apply.
- Your scholarship can't be transferred to another person.

### Is there anything the scholarship doesn't cover?

The scholarship is applied to the cost of the program only. It does not cover ...

- The cost of transportation to and from a program.
- Any additional material costs or expenses.

### What are you expected to do when you return from your program?

When you get back from your adventure, we ask that you do a few things for us.

- Complete an evaluation after the program.
- Write a thank-you letter to the donor(s) who funded your scholarship.
- Consider posting an online review and photos. We can help you with this if you need.
- Allow Road Scholar to use your personal statement and thank-you letter when we report to donors and tell others about our scholarships.

---

*These terms, conditions and eligibility are subject to change without notice.*

***Please save this page for future reference after submitting the attached application.***

# Professional Educators Assistance Recognition (PEAR) Scholarship Application

## INSTRUCTORS

Please read these instructions carefully before applying for the PEAR Scholarship.

Please complete one application per person. In order to be reviewed by the Financial Assistance Committee, all parts of the application must be complete, including the program number and date for which you are applying. Please answer the questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. Your answers will be used to determine eligibility, and incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Please use the checklist at the end of the application to ensure that your submission is complete and eligible.

We cannot review an application for a program with a start date of less than six weeks or an enrollment that has already been paid in full. The review of an application takes 4-6 weeks once it has been received by the committee; applications are reviewed in the order that they are received and cannot be expedited. Therefore, please ensure that you are submitting this application early enough to allow time to enroll and make your travel arrangements after you receive your award letter. We recommend that you apply at least three months before your selected program start date.

If you have any questions regarding scholarships, you may contact us by emailing [scholarships@roadscholar.org](mailto:scholarships@roadscholar.org).

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### How did you learn about Road Scholar?

\_\_\_\_\_

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

Please provide the following information about the program for which you want to register:

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

Program Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Double or Single Occupancy: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Program Cost (Must be under \$2,500): \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please do not send your deposit or any money with this application)





## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read the following seven (7) sections at the beginning of this application and sign below to confirm that you have read and understand the terms and conditions therein:

“Who can apply for the PEAR Scholarship?”

“Which programs are eligible for scholarships?”

“What happens if your application is approved?”

“What happens if you send in an incomplete application?”

“What if your plans change?”

“Is there anything the scholarship doesn’t cover?”

“What are you expected to do when you return from your program?”

By signing this application, you are agreeing to abide by the terms and conditions of the scholarship program; to allow Road Scholar to use your personal statement and thank-you letter in reporting to our donors (and the public at large) how donations to Road Scholar are being used; and to be identified in those materials by your first name, last initial, city and state (e.g. Mary S., Omaha, Nebraska).

Your financial and contact information will always remain completely confidential.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please send your completed application to:

Road Scholar  
Attn: PEAR Scholarship  
PO Box 56033  
Boston, MA 02205-6033

### Please use this checklist to ensure that you are submitting all of the information required. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

- Verify your eligibility to receive a scholarship under the terms and conditions.
- Verify that your program selection is eligible under the terms and conditions (less than \$2,500 and takes place in the U.S. or Canada).
- Complete all of your contact information.
- Fill out the entire Financial Information section.
- Provide the name, number, required deposit, total cost and date of the program you have selected.
- Complete the 250-500-word personal statement.
- Sign and date the application.
- Enclose your financial documentation (your last federal income tax filing or your last Social Security benefit statement).
- Enclose your proof of employment in education, such as a copy of union member card, school district pay stub, tax document or other.

*Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the not-for-profit world leader in educational travel since 1975.*

## LIST OF ROLES IN THE EDUCATION INDUSTRY ELIGIBLE FOR THE PEAR SCHOLARSHIP

Have you always wanted to participate in a Road Scholar program, but financial barriers made it impossible? We have exciting news! Road Scholar is offering a program for anyone over 50 years of age who is currently working in or has retired from any educational organization or system, which includes public or private early childhood, primary, secondary, and further or higher education. If you are facing financial barriers caused by unemployment, ill health, sudden life events, bereavement, or a personal injury, you may be eligible.

The following is a list of eligible fields, departments and roles in various sectors of education. These are intended as guidelines and are not strict limitations. If you do not see the educational field in which you worked and you can provide proof of your employment, please complete and submit an application.

### Eligible sectors include, but are not strictly limited to:

- Classroom Teachers
- Higher Education Faculty & Staff
- Administrators
- Substitute Educators
- School Librarians and Other Media Specialists
- Paraeducators
- Educational Support Professionals
- Clerical Service Staff
- Technical/AV/Media Services Staff
- Transportation Services Staff
- Coaches
- School Nurses
- School Psychologists
- School Social Workers
- Day Care Teachers
- Before- and After-School Teachers
- Health, Wellness & Student Services Staff
- Custodial & Maintenance Staff
- Facilities & Operations Staff
- Dining/Catering/Cafeteria Staff