



“Tap into Change”

A scholarship to empower women in wildlife conservation

Scholarship Program:

Women are an **untapped** resource for conservation. As the primary users of natural resources around the world, they are full of vital knowledge about wildlife and the environment, capable of driving change within their own communities. However, on a global scale and in the field of conservation, women’s voices are marginalized and underrepresented. **Women account for 70% of the populations living in absolute poverty, and 66 million girls are out of school globally (UNESCO).** Without access to education and career opportunities, their full potential as keepers of knowledge, decision-makers, and ecosystem managers cannot be realized.

Untapped:

Giving women the tools they need to gain knowledge, have a voice, and feel **empowered** to become active leaders in wildlife conservation

“The world will never realize 100 per cent of its goals if 50 per cent of its people cannot realize their full potential. When we unleash the power of women, we can secure the future for all.”

UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon

In order to celebrate the historic achievements of the many great women who have paved the way in conservation and to provide opportunities for new generations, Denver Zoo is launching a targeted conservation scholarship for women. This opportunity is designed specifically to support female graduate students to pursue a conservation-related degree – empowering the next generation of wildlife ambassadors.

At Denver Zoo, our mission is to work with key partners and communities using sound science to implement conservation actions focused on important landscapes and species around the world. Providing scholarships to women will help achieve our long-term goal of wildlife conservation and:

- Ensure opportunities for communities, **specifically women**, to participate in decision-making through open dialogue.
- Build capacity among scientists, **in this case women**, in developing a curricular approach to teaching conservation professionals and other key stakeholders.
- Create impactful and positive conservation experiences for our audiences - **women**.
- Acknowledge the importance of local knowledge and incorporate different kinds of knowledge, **women’s unique perspective**, into the design and implementation of conservation strategies.





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Tap into Change Scholarship:

In order to incite change and leverage an “untapped” resource for wildlife conservation, we need to provide women an opportunity to gain the equity they deserve. The goal of the “Tap into Change Scholarship” is to provide financial support for the education, training, and skills women need to prepare for careers in wildlife conservation. Each year, an award will be given to one female-identified student pursuing full or part-time graduate study, based on an application outlining academic achievement, participation in wildlife conservation activities, field of study, statements of objectives, and letters of recommendations. Scholarships will be granted to a candidate who is self-motivated, a leader within her community, demonstrates strong written and verbal communication skills, and who is passionate about wildlife.

The amount of the scholarship will not exceed **\$2,500** in the first year and may vary thereafter. An independent selection committee at Denver Zoo will choose the scholarship winner by considering applicants’ career goals in wildlife conservation, personal statements, proposed contributions to wildlife conservation, and ability to build capacity in others. Award funds will be paid directly to the winner’s educational institution. Verification of acceptance into a graduate-level educational program will be required before money is disbursed.

In receiving the “Tap into Change Scholarship”, recipients agree to adhere to Denver Zoo’s Untapped program reporting requirements. Scholarship recipients agree to participate in interviews conducted by Denver Zoo staff, and to have their story and images shared online, through social media and in other Denver Zoo publications – with prior knowledge and consent. In addition, recipients will serve as mentors to other women currently engaged in Untapped programming in Denver Zoo’s field programs, and this engagement will be agreed, in writing, between the scholarship recipient and Denver Zoo staff.

Requirements:

- Identifies as female
- Is a National from one of Denver Zoo’s field conservation program areas – Vietnam, Mongolia, Botswana, Peru and the Rocky Mountain West (Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming) *preference given to applicants who demonstrate intent to return to that country or region to work in wildlife conservation.*
- Actively enrolled in an accredited graduate school program
- Is pursuing a degree in the field of wildlife conservation; consideration for other degrees given if one can demonstrate relevance to a career in the area of wildlife conservation
- Two letters of recommendation submitted from a current or recent instructor and a professional colleague
- Completed all application sections and essay questions
- Agrees to participate in Denver Zoo’s Untapped program
- Agrees to adhere to Denver Zoo’s reporting requirements



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Scholarship Overview

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Deadline for all applications is **August 2, 2019**. Through email, applicants will be notified no later than September 1, 2019, of their acceptance. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Questions? Contact estotz@denverzoo.org.

Completed Electronic Applications should be submitted to:
estotz@denverzoo.org

Scholarship Checklist

Applicant:

- Identifies as female
- Is a National from one of Denver Zoo’s field conservation program areas – Vietnam, Mongolia, Botswana, Peru and the Rocky Mountain West (Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming) *preference given to applicants who demonstrate intent to return to that country or region to work in wildlife conservation.*
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I hereby verify that the statements in this document are true to the best of my knowledge and grant my permission for the information contained herein to be shared with the “Tap Into Change Scholarship” selection committee and scholarship donor(s).

Signature _____ Date _____





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General Information

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Country _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Nationality: _____

Institution Information

Name of Academic Institution: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Country _____ Zip Code _____

Actively Enrolled in an Academic Institution

Are you receiving other scholarships? If so, what type?

Degree of Study _____ Expected Graduation Date _____

Name of Academic Advisor _____ Contact Information _____





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Please describe your experience in the field of wildlife conservation
(200 words or less)



If awarded the “Tap into Change” scholarship – how will you work to
build the capacity of other women? (200 words or less)





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What is your personal interest in wildlife conservation (200 words or less)?



What impact do you hope to have in the field of wildlife conservation? Be as specific as you can – ex: describe the species, communities, and strategies with which you intend to work (200 words or less).

