

The Stone Trust (TST) Entry-Level Professional Pathway Scholarship

Funding Range: Up to \$5000 for up to three years

This scholarship is intended to support individuals aspiring to become professional dry stone wallers and to advance through increasing levels of DSWA-GB certification. The Stone Trust actively engages in building a community of walling professionals, helping people of all backgrounds create meaningful, dignified livelihoods, and developing a pool of instructors to teach all the people who want to create beautiful artifacts out of stone. We expect applicants for the Entry-Level Walling Professional Scholarship to:

- Demonstrate the desire and capacity to engage in a community of walling professionals.
- Demonstrate a commitment to incorporate dry stone walling into their working life, as a means of producing income to support themselves and others.
- Consider TST instructor certification at the appropriate time, in order to participate in TST's instructor pool.

Through this scholarship, TST works to advance the ranks of professional wallers who teach for The Stone Trust, creating the potential for TST to present the Dry Stone Walling Curriculum regionally to the more than three hundred people a year who now travel hundreds and thousands of miles to participate in TST training.

We want to support your successful application. Feel free to be in touch with questions/comments: <mailto:info@thestonetrust.org> or 802-952-8600.

Please provide a cover sheet including your first and last name, address, phone number, email. Please specify the name you like to be called.

1) Walling Experience:

Please discuss your interest in and experience with dry stone walling. Consider how you discovered the trade, times and places where you have engaged in or experienced stone work, courses you have attended, and people who influence your desire to pursue dry stone walling as a profession. In what ways are you already interacting with the walling community? Who do you look up to? Who do you follow on social media?

Can you elaborate on some of your favorite features in the world of dry stone walling; they can range anywhere from the vernacular to the monumental and iconic?

Where do you see yourself in five years? Ten years? Twenty-five years? (maximum 500 words)

2) Professional Development Plan:

Please present a plan for acquiring the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to achieve Level 2 Intermediate DSWA certification, considered the professional level at which you have developed sufficient mastery to charge for your work. To inform your plan, consider reviewing TST's [Curriculum in Dry Stone](#) and the [DSWA certification pathway](#).

- 1) Specify courses, an anticipated timeline, and costs. Feel free to incorporate your questions.

- 2) Wallers develop skills through hands-on experience building, both alone and ideally with others with extensive experience. Please describe how you intend to develop your skill level beyond TST workshops. Where and with whom do you envision building? How do you envision interacting with the walling community? Consider colleagues, mentors, and other people who can support you as you pursue professional development. Also consider ways in which TST's [Professional Member Directory](#) can be useful to you as you develop your plan. Feel free to describe the nonfinancial support you hope for from TST. (maximum 500 words)

- 3) Please include a candid self-assessment of your own strengths and weaknesses. (100-200 words)

3) Costs:

Part A

Tuition and fees: Please quantify the total cost of the workshop and tests you anticipate including in your professional pathway. List courses and certification tests according to the timeline you established above.

Travel and Lodging (Transportation, Housing, Food): Describe the trips you envision taking to acquire the training you have described in your plan. Estimate a dollar amount for each trip and total the costs.

Time away from work/Lost income: Some professional development experiences may require time away from work. Based on the timeline you have established, please project lost income and estimate a total. Justify your estimate.

Books, tools, work apparel: Please consider what resources you are currently using as part of your practice and what additional materials you consider useful or necessary to further your growth as a dry stone mason. List them and estimate costs.

Child care/Family care: For whom are you/do you feel responsible? How will they be cared for while you are away at training? What costs are associated?

Part B

To what extent are you able to self-fund your development as a dry stone mason and who else is able to provide financial support for your endeavor? (Family, friends, your employer, stone yards, state agencies, private foundations)

No word limit is established for this section of your application. Professional presentation is expected.

3) References:

Please supply contact information for up to three references.

4) Supporting Documentation:

Feel free to upload supporting documents that may include a resume, a portfolio, other... Consider this an opportunity, not a requirement.