



Annual Conference Scholarship

Foundation for Play Therapy

Introduction

The Foundation for Play Therapy (Foundation) is proud to announce the offering of three (3) full scholarships to attend the Annual APT International Conference. The 2026 conference will be held October 13-18, 2026 in Minneapolis, MN. Scholarship applications are due no later than **April 15, 2026 at 5:00pm (PDT)**. Recipients will be selected and notified no later than **May 22, 2026**.

Established in 2018 to assist graduate students and those who recently graduated (within the last 12 months) with financial assistance to support becoming a credentialed play therapist. Applicants will be evaluated based on a combination of financial need and promise as a play therapist. Applicants with evidence of advocacy for underserved communities and groups are of special interest to the scholarship committee. Additionally, points are awarded for current involvement in APT or state branch activities.

Scholarship Award

Scholarship recipients will receive a package valued at approximately \$2,500, including:

- Accommodations at conference hotel for up to 6 nights
- Complimentary registration for the entire conference, and
- A \$250 stipend to defray meals and other expenses.

There is no cash value for unused portions of this scholarship.

Process/Instructions

All completed applications received by the **April 15, 2026** deadline will be reviewed by the Foundation Board of Directors. In the case of a tie, phone interviews will be scheduled with specific applicants. For questions or additional information, please contact APT Operations Manager, Melissa Villegas, MPA, mvillegas@a4pt.org. Applicants will be notified of their selection status by no later than **May 22, 2026**.

Condition of Scholarship

I understand that if chosen as a scholarship recipient, APT will request a 400–500-word essay on my experience at the APT Annual Conference for publication in *Play Therapy*TM magazine.

Criteria A - University/Education Information

Applicant must be enrolled in a graduate mental health program (counseling, psychology, psychiatry, social work, marriage and family, or school counseling/psychology), or a recent graduate of such a program within the past 12 months.

1. Explain how you are incorporating play therapy into your current academic program or one you graduated from within the last 12 months. Include the name of the university/program. (Max 100 words)
2. Attach a signed letter of support from a professor from your current program or University.

Criteria B – Financial Need

The Conference Scholarship was created to assist with financial need for current graduate students or recent graduates pursuing the registered play therapist or school-based play therapist credential.

3. Offer a comprehensive statement regarding your financial needs, including how financial assistance will positively impact you. (Max 150 words)
4. Address how attending the conference will benefit both your personal and professional life. (Max 150 words)

Criteria C – Essay Questions

Applicant must stay within word limit, demonstrate understanding of essay question, and answer question fully

5. Detail your progress in the credentialing process and your participation in either your APT state branch or at the national level. (Max 150 words)
6. Share your career/professional goals and how you are committed to diversity and inclusion in your profession/education. (Max 150 words)
7. Describe your current or desired work setting, the people you want to help, and the community you're involved in. (Max 150 words)
8. Is there anything else that you would like the selection committee to know about you that you have not previously stated? (Max 100 words)