

Who is a role model in your life who has contributed to increasing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion? Suggested 4-5 sentences.

Role Models in my life are the volunteers that I work with and that are part of PDX Climbers of Color and Corvallis Climbers of Color, two of the organizations that have supported my career as a climbing instructor.

Folks that truly believe in what they do, work hard to put up events, share skills and develop partnerships with the sole goal of improving representation in and access to the outdoors. They are regular people with regular struggles that despite all this manage to make time and commitments to make sure other folks experience the outdoors.

I have worked with these individuals and it makes me proud to call them my friends and see how professional they are and how well they can explain something even without having formal guiding education. I could name my friend [REDACTED] who runs the PDX POC Hiking group and PDX Climbers of Color group, or my friend [REDACTED] who is an amazing photographer and has the goal of improving representation in the outdoor industry, or my friend [REDACTED] who just got a scholarship from Climbers of Color in Seattle to become an AMGA SPI. Finally, I can also name my friend [REDACTED] who is trying to move the needle, and started Melanated Mazamas, an affinity group for BIPOC Mazamas members.

These are my role models, no big names but truly great individuals that are part of my community and are doing the groundwork, working for free with love and commitment for the cause of improving access to the outdoors. I have learned and keep learning from them the value of patience, resilience, and leadership.

What are your career goals and how will the scholarship positively impact your career path and personal journey? Suggested 4-5 sentences.

As a climbing instructor and someone whose life has been driven by the love for climbing, my short-term goal is to keep advancing through my rock guide certification. That will allow me to expand my technical scope and with that become a more versatile guide.

This scholarship would be hugely helpful for me to advance faster towards my goal. I'd like to become the first AMGA certified rock guide in Oregon that is an immigrant and Latinx. I want to be a role model for folks that think becoming a climbing guide is too hard or that it is not for them. I also want to expand my scope so I can bring people that look like me outdoors, specifically on multi-pitch climbs.

Currently, I work with plenty of organizations that would benefit from having a BIPOC AMGA Rock Guide. I want to bring professionalism and high technical preparedness to these organizations, that way I not only will be a role model for many BIPOC folks but also would elevate the quality of lessons, and overall experience that these non-profits offer.

Getting this scholarship would be a validation of the journey that I have gone through so far (Being an Immigrant from Venezuela, working hard towards my goals, not giving up, following my dreams while having a household back home to support, juggling my own personal intersectionality) and a confidence builder for what is coming. I have already done much and I keep working towards my dream.

How will this opportunity enrich your life beyond AMGA professional development? For example, feeling empowered to provide advice, a stepping stone towards a specific/further career goal, or mentorship to those in need. Suggested 4-5 sentences.

This opportunity, as I said before, will validate my own journey, the work that I have done so far with the community and as a climber, and will help me go beyond the SPI scope. Of course, I would not only feel empowered but motivated to keep working hard towards increasing representation in the outdoors.

The Rock Climbing Guide Course will empower me as an apprentice to provide a different experience to my BIPOC clients and with that, I would be able to step it up a notch in terms of what we can offer. Yes, SPI is good and the scope is broad but I also want to show we can strive for more and as a BIPOC we can be highly educated, prepared, and able to perform in more complex environments.

This scholarship would be money well spent and it won't only impact me, but my family and the group of students and volunteers that I currently support. For that reason, I truly believe I would become a great asset for my community, a resource that can be leveraged to serve a good cause.

AMGA Scholarship Budget Template

Total amount requested:

\$2,250.00

Item	Cost	Description
Ground or Air Transportation	\$250.00	Driving from PDX to Smith Rock or Jtree
Lodging	\$400.00	10 days of campsite fees
Per Diem	\$250.00	Food
Travel and/or transportation	\$0.00	
Instruction and Mentoring	\$0.00	
Course or Exam Fees	\$2,950.00	AMGA Rock Guide Course