



RECREATION NOVA SCOTIA

BOARD APPLICATION FORM 2026/2027

Date of Application: 24th September 2026

Name: Maddie Stewart

Position: Student Director (1-year)

Please tell us about the relevant talents and abilities which you will bring to the Recreation Nova Scotia Board of Directors.

I possess a diverse range of skills and abilities that would allow me to meaningfully contribute to the RNS board. I am well organized, professional and diligent in my work. I am a strong communicator, facilitator and positive team player. In addition to these skills, I have extensive experience in outdoor recreation and a vested interest in supporting the continued success and expansion of this sector in Nova Scotia.

I have been the director of Sherbrooke Lake Camp for three seasons and worked in various other roles there in previous years. In the past year, I worked with Halifax Recreation and the Adventure Earth Centre as an Outdoor Program Specialist. I have an understanding of what it is like to be working in the recreation industry in 2026 and would bring valuable insights to the board with this experience.

What do you personally hope to achieve by volunteering on the Board?

I am interested in serving as the Student Director on the board of RNS for a variety of reasons. Currently, I am enrolled as a graduate student in Leisure Studies at Dalhousie university. I enjoy being a student and believe that student perspectives add value to conversations about futures for the recreation industry. I would do my best to represent the student community as a member of this board and share the important work that RNS does with students across Nova Scotia. I have a strong understanding of the education system in Nova Scotia. I am a certified teacher and have experience teaching in the Annapolis Valley. This gives me a unique perspective on issues and topics that matter to students and educators across the province.

I am personally hoping to gain experience discussing topics in recreation with a wide range of stakeholders. I hope to broaden my understanding of how recreation programs are developed and delivered in Nova Scotia and gain a deeper knowledge of the challenges facing the industry.



Professionally, I am interested in a career in academia researching outdoor education and the potential benefits of increased time outdoors for children and youth. Participating in recreation is one of the

ways many people spend time outside and develop an ecological identity. Serving on this board would be valuable professional experience for me and help me establish connections through which to pursue future research.



Recreation Nova Scotia

Call for Nominations 2026/2027

Members of Recreation Nova Scotia (RNS) are encouraged to submit nominations for directors & officers to the attention of the *Chairperson of the Nominations Committee* by Wednesday 23rd September. The proposed slate is circulated to members 14 days before the RNS Annual General Meeting (AGM) via email. Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the AGM taking place on October 14, 2026 at the Best Western – Glengarry, Truro.

We, the undersigned, wish to nominate (print)

Maddie Stewart

for the Position of:

Student Director

Nominee Contact Information:

Maddie Stewart

Mailing Address:

101 Williams Lake Road

City

Province

Postal Code

Halifax

Nova Scotia

B3P 1T4

Email

Phone

Maddie.stewart@dal.ca

902-300-4113



Please provide a brief biographical sketch of the nominee, which illustrates the relevant talents, skills, and abilities that the individual will bring to the position for which they are nominated.

I know Maddie Stewart from working together at the Adventure Earth Centre, an outdoor recreation centre that offers child, youth, and adult programming within Halifax Regional Municipality. Maddie has extensive experience that would make her an excellent candidate for the student representative position on the board of directors.

With experience as an outdoor program specialist and camp director, she brings a wealth of experience as a recreation professional. Maddie also holds a bachelor of education which supports her understanding of the student experience, and what it means to be a student in this province. She is currently completing her Master of Arts in Leisure Studies, which shows her commitment to developing and exploring ideas within leisure and recreation in our province.

In our years working together, I have learned that Maddie is an extremely organized person, with a fantastic ability to communicate, she is also very creative and would bring a great perspective to board meetings. She cares deeply about providing quality recreation experiences to all participants that enter her programs and I trust that she would bring this level of care and attention to the board of Recreation NS.

Signature of Member

Agustina Cohen

Signature of Member

Print Name

Agustina Cohen

Phone

902-478-9092

Print Name

Phone

Email

Agustina.Cohen@dal.ca

Email

Nominee Acceptance Form

☒ I accept this nomination and agree to stand as a candidate for election to the RNS Board of Directors for the position specified in the RNS By-Laws.

☒ I agree to the terms of the By-Laws, which state that RNS Board members must be members of RNS in good standing.



Signature of Nominee:

Nomination Process

1. Application to be sent for review to the RNS Nominations Committee by **Wednesday 23 September, 2026.**
2. An application must include four components:
 - ☐ The Board Application Form (available on the website)
 - ☐ The Call for Nomination Form (this document)
 - ☐ At least one Reference Letter supporting the candidate's application and
 - ☐ A Resume/Curriculum Vitae.
3. The Nomination Committee will review applications, check membership status, screen and interview nominees and make recommendations.
4. Additionally, the usual process of nominations from the floor of the Annual General Meeting will be followed. The AGM will take place on **October 14, 2026, at the Best Western – Glengarry, Truro.**
5. If there is more than one nominee, each candidate will be given up to two minutes to address the membership if desired. If a nominee is not present, another member can read the prepared speech of the absent nominee.
6. The President-Elect nominee(s) will be given up to three minutes to address the membership.
7. In case of nominations from the floor, if elected, the candidate must pass the RNS Board Screening policy before assuming office.

Available Board Positions:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Recording Officer (1 year)* - <i>Current Director Re-Offering</i> | 4. Director at Large (1 year) |
| 2. Vice-President of Monitoring (2 year) | 5. Director at Large (1 year) |
| 3. Student Director (1 year) | 6. Director at Large (2 years) |

Note: The Recreation Nova Scotia website contains detailed [role descriptions](#).

Return the nomination form by September 23, 2026, to:

Recreation Nova Scotia
Attention: Nominations Committee Chair
Email: gmounsey@recreationns.ns.ca



Katelyn George
Halifax Regional Municipality
September 23, 2026

Recreation Nova Scotia- Board of Directors
Student Director Position Reference

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to provide this letter of reference in support of Maddie Stewart's application for the Student Director position with Recreation Nova Scotia.

I had the pleasure of supervising Maddie during her time as an Outdoor Program Specialist at the Adventure Earth Centre. Throughout her employment, Maddie consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills, professionalism, and a genuine passion for outdoor recreation.

One of Maddie's greatest strengths is the way she supports the people around her. She was a positive role model for younger staff, always willing to share her knowledge, offer encouragement, and help create a welcoming and inclusive team environment. Maddie has a natural ability to connect with people from a variety of backgrounds and build positive relationships with youth, staff, and families.

Maddie is organized, dependable, and thoughtful in everything she does. She balanced a wide range of responsibilities while remaining professional and attentive to the needs of participants, parents, and coworkers. Whether she was leading programs, supporting staff, or responding to challenges as they arose, she approached her work with maturity and a positive attitude.

What stands out most about Maddie is her passion for recreation and the outdoors. She understands the impact that recreation can have on individuals and communities and genuinely cares about creating meaningful experiences for others. Her enthusiasm, leadership skills, and strong work ethic would make her a great addition to the Recreation Nova Scotia Board.

I highly recommend Maddie for this opportunity and am confident she would be a valuable asset in the Student Director role. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Katelyn George
Community Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
Halifax Regional Municipality

902.476.0007

Katelyn.george@halifax.ca

MADDIE STEWART

902-300-4113

maddie.stewart@dal.ca

101 Williams Lake Road, Halifax, NS B3P 1T4

RECENT EXPERIENCE

Summer Camp Director, Sherbrooke Lake Camp (New Ross, NS)

Sept. 2025 - June 2026

- Managed day to day operations for an overnight summer camp delivering programming to campers aged 5-15.
- Facilitated hiring and interviewing, planned and implemented staff training program, conducted evaluations and provided formal feedback to summer staff.

Jan 2024 - Sept. 2026

Outdoor Program Specialist, Adventure Earth Centre (Halifax, NS)

- Develops, adapts and coordinates outdoor programming and services for all populations.
- Assists with intake, orientation and mentoring of part-time program instructor staff.
- Communicates with staff, participants, parents and families.

Sept. 2024 - Dec. 2024

Learning Centre Teacher, Northeast Kings Education Centre (Canning, NS)

- Coordinated and implemented individualized learning plans for students with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities.
- Managed and scheduled Educational Assistants.

Learning Support Teacher, Kings County Academy (Kentville, NS)

Sept. 2023 - June 2024

- Developed and delivered individualized programming on social emotional learning and life skills for students with behavioural challenges and disabilities.
- Collaborated with partners within the school system and the community to support the inclusion and success of students with disabilities.
- Participated in professional development and learning related to current best practices in education.

Carleton University Research Opportunity Program Internship (Ottawa, ON)

May 2020-August 2020

- Received funding to design and complete a research project related to political theory in coordination with a faculty supervisor.

EDUCATION

Carleton University

Sept. 2017 - May 2021

Ottawa, Ontario

Bachelor of Arts Honours, Political Science and History

- Senate Medal for Outstanding Academic Achievement

Acadia University

Sept. 2021 - May 2023

Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Bachelor of Education, Specialization in High School Social Studies

Dalhousie University

Sept. 2026 - Present

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Master of Leisure Studies

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Remote First Aid and CPR C

Qualified Sept 2025- Sept. 2028

Outdoor Council of Canada Field Leader

Qualified Oct. 2025

Initial Teacher Certificate, Nova Scotia

Qualified July 2023