

NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Smokejumper Association plans to annually award as many as eight \$2,500 scholarships. The total number of awards will depend on the number of applicants and their qualifications.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN APPLYING FOR AN NSA SCHOLARSHIP

The NSA Board of Directors has adopted the best practice of many, if not most, scholarship granting institutions – namely, using metrics to select recipients. These metrics result in a numerical score that board members will use to rank applications.

Some of the criteria that will be taken into consideration include NSA membership, employment (past or present as a smokejumper or pilot), type of academic program, grade-point average, and the quality of the essay submitted.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR A NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP?

National Smokejumper Association scholarships are intended to provide financial support to students who are committed to obtaining advanced education. An applicant must:

- Be a current or former smokejumper or smokejumper pilot or have a direct family relation to a current or former smokejumper or smokejumper pilot (spouse, children or grandchildren), and
- Be currently enrolled in an accredited program that will lead to a college degree or other accreditation.
- Previous applicants may reapply. Scholarship winners must skip one year before reapplying.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IF YOU INTEND TO APPLY?

- An application is provided for your use which you must download, complete and return with your narrative and your up-to-date school transcript.
- You must provide a narrative not to exceed one to two typewritten pages addressing the criteria listed below:
 - Your narrative should describe your leadership style/character/service potential and explain how you intend to use your degree/training.
 - Your narrative should contain a statement of financial need which explains why you would benefit from being awarded a scholarship.

- This will also give you an opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances you may have.
- Applicants should also describe any involvement with volunteer activities, personal efforts to fund their education, and participation in extracurricular activities.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS?

- Scholarship applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- Applicants may apply for a scholarship at any time, but they must be enrolled at the school of their choice by the time funds are dispensed. Funds are not paid to the applicant but are sent directly to the school's student finance office. Students must provide their student identification number and the school's address where the check will be sent.
- Current members of the National Smokejumper Association will receive priority consideration. For purposes of scholarship applications NSA memberships will be considered as 'current' only if the membership has been **established by March 31st**.
- In evaluating the narrative, the Scholarship Committee will assess the overall quality of the writing and how the narrative reflects on the candidate's character, strengths and leadership style.
- The Scholarship Committee will also assess candidate's educational goals and how they will use their education or training in service to others.

WHERE DO YOU SEND YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE?

Email your application package to **Jim Cherry** (Missoula '57) at jimcherry@wctatel.net no later than June 15. Successful applicants will be notified by July 15. Scholarship funds will be paid by the National Smokejumper Association to the education institution and are intended to be used for academic purposes such as tuition, fees, room, board and/or books.