

NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING GRANTS

The National Smokejumper Association plans to annually award up to \$2,500 in educational/training grants during the 12-month period ending June 30 of each year. The NSA will accept applications for grants any time during that 12-month period. The total number of awards and the size of each will depend on the number of applicants, their qualifications, and available funds. These awards are for current and former smokejumpers, and grantees will be reimbursed for costs incurred for the training. The amount of the award will be determined by the NSA Scholarship Committee.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN APPLYING FOR AN NSA EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING GRANT

The NSA Scholarship Committee uses a system of 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 as a smokejumper, type of educational/training program being sought, and the clarity and quality of the jumper's explanation of how the training will benefit him/her in performing as a smokejumper, providing income during the off-season, or providing needed training for other ventures beyond smokejumping.

EXAMPLES OF EDUCATION/TRAINING THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT

- Workshops and training events providing certifications needed for career advancement, e.g., EMT training.
- Continuing education events required for continued certification, i.e., annual training for teacher certification.
- Pilot training.
- Testing fees for certifications.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR A NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION NSA EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING GRANT?

National Smokejumper Association Education/Training Grants are intended to provide financial support to past and current smokejumpers who are committed to obtaining advanced education and training. An applicant must be:

- current or former smokejumper.
- currently registered or applying for an educational/training program that corresponds to their stated goals and life objectives.

Previous applicants may reapply.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IF YOU INTEND TO APPLY?

An application is provided for your use to download, complete, and return with your statement of educational/training goals and life objectives.

Your statement must not exceed one to two typewritten pages and should address the criteria listed below:

- Your statement should describe your leadership style, character, service potential, and explain how you intend to use your education/training.

- Your statement should address your financial situation and why you would benefit from being awarded an educational/training grant. This will also give you an opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances you may have.
- Applicants should also describe their personal efforts to fund their own education/training.

WHAT IS THE CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS FOR TRAINING GRANTS?

- Scholarship applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- Applicants may apply for an educational/training grant at any time, but they must be enrolled at the school/training event of their choice before the funds are dispensed. Funds are paid to the applicant upon NSA receipt of paid invoices. It is the student's responsibility to send copies of paid invoices to the NSA.
- Current members of the National Smokejumper Association will receive priority consideration. For purposes of educational/training grants, NSA memberships will be considered as "current" only if the membership has been established 12 months prior to the submission of the grant application.
- In evaluating the narrative, the NSA 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 the candidate's educational goals and how they will use their education/training in service to others.

WHERE DO YOU SEND YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE?

If you have any questions about the types of acceptable education/training or the amounts of training grants, please contact Jim Cherry at the email address listed below.

Email your application package to Jim Cherry (Missoula '57) at:

jimcherry@wctatel.net

Successful applicants will be notified within 30 days of the application being received and the amount of the grant that will be awarded. Grant funds will be paid by the National Smokejumper Association to the student upon receipt of the student's paid invoice from the educational/training facility. Grant funds are intended to be used for academic purposes such as tuition, fees, room, board, books, and other items that are related to the provision of the education/training.