

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIP

2018 Guidelines & Instructions

The Oklahoma State Fair (OSF) scholarship program provides collegiate scholarships to students who are graduates of an accredited high school or homeschool located in one of the 77 Oklahoma counties. The purpose of the scholarship is to:

- Encourage students to continue their educational development.
- Recognize the overall achievements of the students.
- Recognize the fact that OSF is committed to promoting education in the lives of Oklahoma's young people.
- Assist in the cost of acquiring advanced education by providing 10 awards of \$2,500 each.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible to compete for one (1) of the OSF scholarships, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant must be a current year high school graduate of an accredited high school or homeschool located in one (1) of the 77 Oklahoma counties.
- Applicant must attend a college, university, vocational or technical school in the state of Oklahoma.
- Applicant must be a legal resident of Oklahoma.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen.
- Applicant must upload all supporting documents to the online application at the time of submission.

Application Process

- OSF will ONLY accept online applications from eligible candidates from February 19 to March 30. The online application link can be found at okstatefair.com/content/oklahoma-state-fair-scholarship beginning Monday, February 19 at noon. It will be inactivated and NO applications will be accepted after 4:59 p.m. on Friday, March 30.
- Applications submitted without all required fields will not be considered.
- The online application process requires that all materials are submitted at the time of access to the application. The application does not have the ability to be saved and accessed at a later time (see the application checklist to ensure you are ready to submit your required information).

Selection Process

The scholarship committee will review student applications and select finalists.

- Finalists will be required to attend a personal interview April 24 - 26, at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City. Notifications to schedule an interview will be made via email on April 13. Please make sure to check your emails on that day as interviews are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. A subsequent phone call will be made if we have not heard back from you in two (2) business days.
 - Students selected to interview will have a photo taken at the interview for use in promotional materials. A photo/information release will be required. More information will be provided if applicant is selected to interview.
- Students not selected to interview will receive notification via email that he/she were not selected to continue in the process on April 13.
- Finalists will be notified of the outcome of the final phase of the selection process (award/no award) via email on May 1.

Award Criteria

- Ten (10) scholarship winners will be selected for a one (1)-time \$2,500 award based on overall scholastic performance, leadership, community involvement and verifiable participation in the competitive programs (e.g. horse, livestock, creative arts or other competitions) at the OSF, if applicable. While OSF participation is not mandatory, it will be weighted along with the other criteria during the selection process.
- At the time the award is made, the student must be a current year (2018) graduate of an accredited high school or homeschool from one of the 77 Oklahoma counties.

- Before receiving the scholarship funds, the student will have been accepted and enrolled in a qualified, accredited college, university, vocational or technical school as a full-time student. Full-time enrollment is defined as 12 semester-credit hours during the fall/spring semester.
- If you are one (1) of the selected recipients, you will be required to provide proof of enrollment in a qualified college, university, vocational or technical school as described above is required no later than the August 1. Awarded funds will not be distributed without proof of eligible enrollment.

Distribution of Funds

- The student will be awarded the scholarship in the form of a check made payable directly to the student at an awards ceremony scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2018 during the Oklahoma State Fair.
- The award is to be used by the student to pay for tuition, books, fees, supplies and incidental expenses associated with the student's attendance at a college, university, vocational or technical school.
- Award money will be held until January 31 of the year immediately following the award. If the student is not engaged, full-time, in an accredited college, university, vocational or technical school by January 31 of the year immediately following the award, the money will be forfeited back to the OSF scholarship fund for future scholarship winners.
- The award may not be alienated, transferred, assigned or encumbered. The student is responsible for reporting scholarship income, if required, by the Internal Revenue Service.

Application Checklist

Applicants should be prepared to list the information and upload the items listed below at the time he/she accesses the online application. Applications cannot be saved and accessed later. *Incorrect or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.*

- **High school information:**
 - Rank in class, number of students in graduating class
 - Graduating unweighted GPA
 - ACT Score or SAT Score
 - College Information, including where applied and accepted, if applicable
- **Financial assistance/other awards:** This includes OHLAP amounts, tuition waivers and other scholarships you may have received.
- **Honors, leadership & community involvement:** Applicants will be required to pick a MAXIMUM of 10 honors/awards, 10 leadership positions and 10 community or volunteer projects received or completed during high school years (grades 9-12) ONLY. Applicants should prioritize carefully as no resume or other listings of activities/involvement/awards will be allowed.
- **OSF involvement/participation:** If the applicant has personally participated in some way at OSF (for example via a competitive event or activity – not just attending), this may help weight his/her application. Be prepared to submit no more than 150 words explaining the specific participation or activities and years applicable. It is NOT required that the applicant have participated at OSF to apply. Prepare the “up to 150 words” in advance, as the online form will cut off any additional words. This will be a “free form” entry box which will accept typed or cut/pasted text, not an uploaded document.
- **Writing assignment:** Be prepared to answer only one (1) of the following questions in no more than 500 words. Prepare the “up to 500 words” in advance, as the online form will cut off any additional words. This will be a “free form” entry box which will accept typed or cut/pasted text, not an uploaded document.
 - What influenced your choice of major and how do you see yourself using it?
 - Give an example of how one class, teacher, book or experience has changed the way you think.
 - What do you consider to be the most important societal problem and why?
- **Required Uploads:** make sure the student's name is on each uploaded document. All documents must be PDFs and the TOTAL of ALL uploads may NOT exceed 10 Mb.
 - High School Transcript, noting unweighted GPA and class rank
 - Proof of highest ACT/SAT test score (if part of official transcript, it will be included above)

QUESTIONS

- If you have any questions, contact Kate Kelly, scholarship coordinator, at kkelly@okstatefair.com.