



# OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR, INC. SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

The Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. Scholarship program provides collegiate scholarships to students who are graduates of an accredited high school or homeschool in Oklahoma.

The purpose of the scholarship is to:

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

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to compete for an Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant must be a current year high school graduate of an accredited high school or homeschool in Oklahoma.
- Applicant must have verifiable Oklahoma State Fair involvement beyond regular attendance, ex: livestock, equine, creative arts competitions, etc.
- Applicant must be a legal resident of Oklahoma.
- Applicant must be a United States citizen.

## SCHOLARSHIP TIMELINE

- The 2024 Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. Scholarship opens February 12 and closes March 8. No late applications will be accepted. The application link can be found [here](#).
- Candidates will be informed via email if they have/have not been selected to move forward to the interview phase on or before April 1. For those moving forward, this email will include a link for you to schedule your interview.
- Those moving forward must select an interview slot by April 8, no exceptions.
- Interviews will take place at the OKC Fairgrounds Administration Building April 10 through 12.
- Applicants will be notified via mail of their award status on or before May 3.
- Winners must submit their proof of enrollment via email by August 2.
- Scholarships will be presented to winners during the 2024 Oklahoma State Fair on September 21.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The scholarship committee will review student applications and select finalists.

- Finalists will be required to attend a personal (or virtual, if necessary) interview at the OKC Fairgrounds. Notifications to schedule an interview will be made via email. Please make sure to check your email as interviews are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. If we have not received a response by the deadline, the applicant will be removed from the running.
  - Students selected to interview will have a photo taken at the interview for use in promotional materials. A photo/information release will be required.
- Students not selected to interview will receive notification via email that their applications were not selected to continue in the process.
- Finalists will be notified of the outcome of the selection process (award/no award) via mail.

## AWARD CRITERIA

- Ten (10) scholarship winners will be selected for a one-time \$2,500 award based on overall scholastic performance, leadership, community involvement and verifiable participation in the competitive programs at the Oklahoma State Fair, ex: livestock, equine, creative arts competitions, etc.
- At the time the award is given, the student must be a current year graduate of an accredited high school or homeschool in Oklahoma.
- Before receiving the scholarship funds, the student will have been accepted and enrolled in an accredited college, university, vocational or technical school as a full-time student. Full-time enrollment is defined as at least 12 credit hours each semester.

- If the student is selected, the student will be required to provide proof of enrollment in a qualified college, university, vocational or technical school as described above. 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 at the Oklahoma State Fair. Attendance is not mandatory but is preferred. Admission for the recipient and three (3) guests will be arranged for each winner.
- 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 Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. 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 MATERIALS 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** including the items below (proof of these will be uploaded as files – see “UPLOADS REQUIRED”)
  - Rank in class, number of students in graduating class
  - Graduating unweighted GPA
  - ACT Score and/or SAT Score
  - College Information, including where applied and accepted, if applicable
- **Financial Assistance/Other Awards** including OHLAP amounts, tuition waivers and other scholarships received.
- **Honors, Leadership & Community Involvement:** Applicants will be required to pick a MAXIMUM of ten (10) honors/awards, ten (10) leadership positions and ten (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. **This section will be scored. Be sure to clearly represent hours or grades of relevant involvement.**
- **Personal Motivation Statement:** Applicants will be asked to answer the following question in up to 150 words. 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.
  - Why do you want to further your education and how will this scholarship help you?
- **Oklahoma State Fair Involvement/Participation:** Applicants will be required to submit up to 150 words describing their involvement in the annual Oklahoma State Fair (which occurs in September), whether as a competition entrant or participant in an activity, **not just an attendee**. Be prepared to submit no more than 150 words explaining the specific participation or activities. **It is to the applicant's advantage to list ALL applicable years of State Fair participation; participation is scored as part of the applicant's written submission.** 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 ONE 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. **This section will be scored. Applicants should put their best foot forward in the development of a meaningful and grammatically correct entry. Facts, figures, and any cited materials are not given consideration in this subjective section. Any material deemed to be developed by AI will receive zero points and the application may be disqualified. This should be a personal response.**
  - Prompt 1: Give an example of an area where you see yourself as an agent of change.
  - Prompt 2: Give an example of how you demonstrated leadership by overcoming a challenge or an obstacle in your life.

- Prompt 3: 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 10Mb.
  - High School Transcript noting unweighted GPA and class rank.
  - Proof of highest ACT/SAT test score (if a part of official transcript, can be uploaded with the above)

All scholarship questions should be directed to the scholarship coordinator:

Holly Kinyon

[Hkinyon@okstatefair.com](mailto:Hkinyon@okstatefair.com)

405-948-6829