



# OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR, INC. SCHOLARSHIP 2021 GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

The Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. 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 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

In order to be eligible to compete for one of the Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. 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 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

- Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. will accept ONLY online applications from eligible candidates from February 15 to March 26. The online application link can be found on the [okstatefair.com](http://okstatefair.com) Scholarship page beginning Monday, February 15 at noon. It will be inactivated, and NO applications will be accepted after 4:59 p.m. on Friday, March 26.
- 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 "APPLICATION MATERIALS 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 (or virtual, if necessary) interview April 26 – 30 at the OKC Fairgrounds. Notifications to schedule an interview will be made via email on April 5. Please make sure to check your emails on that day as interviews are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. If we have not received a response by April 16, 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. More information will be provided if applicant is selected to interview.
- Students not selected to interview will receive notification via email that their applications were not selected to continue in the process on April 5.
- Finalists will be notified of the outcome of the final phase of the selection process (award/no award) via mail on May 7.

## 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 (e.g. horse, livestock, creative arts or other competitions) at the Oklahoma State Fair.
- At the time the award is given, the student must be a current year (2021) 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 an 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 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, no later than August 6. 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 25, at the 2021 Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. It is not mandatory for recipients to attend awards ceremony but is preferred. Admission for 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 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.
- **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 and years applicable. 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.
  - Prompt 1: Give an example of an area where you see yourself as an agent of change.
  - Prompt 2: Give an example of how one class, teacher, book or experience has changed the way you think.
  - 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 rank in class
  - 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