



THE SOCIETY OF THE ORDER OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Founded in 1863

Order of the Southern Cross Scholarship

Introduction

This scholarship offered by *The Order of the Southern Cross* was established after the passing in 2005 of Peter W. Orlebeke, who was influential in promoting Confederate philanthropy and preservation. Mr. Orlebeke was an active member in the Order of the Southern Cross (OSC), Military Order of Stars and Bars, and Sons of Confederate Veterans for which he was elected to the highest office of Commander-in-Chief. He was also a founder and charter member of the Descendants of Confederate Veterans.

Eligibility

An applicant for the *Order of the Southern Cross Scholarship* must be 1.) a genealogically-proven descendant of a Confederate soldier or an official member of the Confederate Government **and** 2.) a high school senior who will be matriculating at an accredited college or university **or** a currently enrolled student at an accredited college or university. Please note, however, that priority will be given to high school seniors

General Information

- **Time Schedules:** The completed application and all supporting material (see below) should be submitted by March 31 each year. Scholarship awardees will be notified as soon as they are selected. Funds awarded will be forwarded to the selected institution upon notification by the applicant of enrollment.
- **Review and Criteria for Evaluation:** Scholarships are merit-based and applicants will be judged on a personal statement covering importance of Southern heritage; activities related to Southern heritage; activities in church, school, or community; academic performance; and strength of recommendation letter(s). Activities related to Southern heritage may be in an organization such as the Children of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Military Order of the Stars & Bars, etc. or it may be activities outside these organizations, such as individual or group participation in preservation or maintenance of a cemetery, battlefield, or historic site or other activities consistent with preservation of the South's history and heritage. The criteria will be weighted as follows: personal statement covering importance of Southern heritage to the applicant (40%); Southern heritage activities (20%); church, school, and community activities (20%); academic record (10%); recommendation letter(s) (10%).

- Priority will be given to high school seniors, although currently enrolled college or university students may also apply. The Scholarship Committee may request additional information or clarification from the applicant, and waiver of a provision may be granted under extenuating circumstances if the waiver does not significantly affect the overall merit of the application.
- Disbursement of Funds: Applicants who are awarded scholarships must be matriculating or enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college or university which grants degrees before funds are disbursed. Scholarship funds shall be placed on deposit at the institution on behalf of the awardee and any unused portion returned to the OSC by the institution.
- Scholarship Amount and Limits: The scholarship shall be \$1,000 for each applicant, and awardees may not receive a scholarship more than once.

Requirements for Submission:

Application: The printed application must be completed in its entirety. Signature attests to its accuracy. The committee chair will inform you by email of receipt of your application material with subject line “OSC Scholarship Application.”

Ancestor Proof: Applicants must be descendants of a Confederate soldier or of an official member of the Confederate government and must provide proof.

Personal Statement: The applicant shall submit a personal statement describing the importance of Southern heritage to the applicant. It can include activities undertaken and influences that have been important in shaping the applicant’s development, aspirations, and outlook and can be written using any approach that the applicant believes is most appropriate. This statement should be limited to 500 words or less.

Academic Records: The applicant must submit an academic record of courses that have been completed, such as a transcript, and the record should include grade point average and class rank, if applicable. If transcripts are not released to the applicant, they can be sent to the Scholarship Committee Chair (see address on application).

Letter of Recommendation: A letter must be submitted on the applicant’s behalf from a teacher, school counselor, or principal who is well-acquainted with the applicant. The letter should address the applicant’s character, ability, dependability, and integrity. Up to two additional letters may also be submitted.



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OSC Scholarship Application

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Email address: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

1. Educational institutions attended, including address and dates of attendance:

High School

Post-High School
(College or University)

Graduate School

2. Southern heritage activities:

3. Activities in church, school, and community:

4. Academic honors / awards:

5. Have you been awarded other financial aid? Yes No

If yes, give name of award, address of fund and amount of the award:

6. Institution you plan to attend and whether you have been accepted or are enrolled.

I declare that the above listed information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I give permission to the *Order of the Southern Cross* to verify all information provided on this application.

Signature

Date

Please send the application and all supporting materials to
OSCScholarships@protonmail.com