

Friends of Santa Scholarship Guidelines

The Primary mission of the Friends of Santa Scholarship Committee (Committee) is to provide college scholarships to area students based on merit and need. This internal scholarship program is entirely managed by the staff of the Committee. Scholarship awards are decided by the Board Members during its regular second quarter meeting. The Committee awards individual scholarships of \$2,000.00 disbursed over two years at \$1,000.00 per year or \$500.00 per semester, provided the recipient conforms to the requirements set forth in the award.

Scholarships are reserved for students from East Cooper, Sullivans Island, Isle of Palms and Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina who attend a South Carolina two year or four-year, non-profit accredited colleges and universities. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors from Wando High School. To be considered, scholarship applications must be completed and required support documents must be mailed to the Committee by May 15, 2014 (postmarked deadline).

Scholarships are awarded to help defray the costs of tuition, books, room and board, and other college expenses. All scholarship checks are mailed directly from the Committee to the financial aid office of the applicable college or university.

All scholarship applicants are advised in writing of the Board's decisions. Letters will be mailed from the Committee office on May 20, 2014. For more information, please contact: Bobby Bryant at 843-270-3900 or bobby.bryant@cbunited.com

Who is eligible for the scholarship?

- The awarded scholarships go to students from the East Cooper area, Sullivans Island, Isle of Palms and Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.
- Wando High School Seniors after the start of their senior year.
- Students who are citizens of the United States. Students with Permanent Resident status are not eligible.
- The Scholarships are awarded based on "financial need" and "scholastic ability."

What test scores and GPA do I need for scholarship consideration?

Although standardized test scores do not solely reflect academic merit, the scholarship committee does note SAT and/or ACT scores when evaluating applications. Please keep in mind that the scholarship committee considers all aspects of the student's application.

Which application do I need to complete?

All applicants who have never received a Friends of Santa Scholarship must complete the scholarship application for First-Time Application.

What do I need to include with my application?

Along with the completed application, the Committee requires students to submit the following support documents:

1. **High School Transcript:** Please submit a copy of your official high school transcript. If available, make sure that your SAT and/or ACT scores are listed on the transcript.
2. **SAT and/or ACT Scores:** If they are not included on the high school transcript please send a copy of the official score report.

3. **Letters of Recommendation:** We want to know what others have to say about you! Please submit two letters of recommendation from teachers, religious leaders, coaches, employers, or others who have important roles in your life. Keep in mind that one recommendation must be from Wando High School. It is wise to choose someone who knows you best and who can take the time to write a descriptive letter.

To be completed separately and submitted with the scholarship application:

1. **Essay:** The essay not only demonstrates your writing ability but also conveys your personality and other qualities previously not listed on the application. The essay portrays the student beyond test scores and GPA. Many college applications require essays. If applicable, you may submit an essay that you have written for college admission. However, make sure that it falls within our scholarship application parameters (i.e. 500 word limit and subject). Ideally, the Committee would like to hear your thoughts on how you will contribute to your community upon graduation.
2. **Financial Need Statement:** We know that the cost of college is a financial burden to most families. Although we ask for specific income information on the application, we would like to know of any family circumstance that may affect your family's ability to pay for college. Losses of job, death of parent, medical expenses, or having other siblings in college are all examples. This information is important during the application evaluation process. Please be as specific as possible.

Where do the Friends of Santa Scholars attend college?

Scholarship recipients may attend any 2 or 4-year non-profit accredited institution in the state of South Carolina. Please keep in mind that the Committee only recognizes the main regional accrediting agencies as viable examples (example: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).

What are the scholarship renewal guidelines?

The Friends of Santa Scholarship is renewable up to your first two years (four semesters) of undergraduate studies. The Committee does not fund additional semesters or fifth year seniors.

To maintain the Friends of Santa Scholarship, you agree to:

- Maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA. If a 3.0 is not met, please continue to send the Committee your grades at the end of each semester. Your scholarship may be reinstated with approval from the Committee.
- Take a full course load (12 credit hours). The Friends of Santa will only award funding if you maintain at least 12 credit hours. Notify the Committee immediately if you plan to drop below 12 credit hours.
- Mail, email or fax a transcript or a grade report to the Friends of Santa that includes both semester and cumulative GPAs. The deadline for the Fall grade report is January 1 while the Spring deadline is June 1. Notify the Committee office of a change of address and email address (email is our main form of communication).
- Please notify the Committee office if you transfer colleges or plan to study abroad.

Send application and information to:

- Mailing Address: The Friends of Santa, P.O. Box 713, Isle of Palms, SC 29451, or
- E-Mail Address: friendsofsanta@hotmail.com, or
- Fax Number: 843-266-8388