

## Friends of Santa Scholarship Guidelines

The primary mission of the Friends of Santa Scholarship 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. Scholarships awards are decided by the Board Members during its regular second quarterly 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, providing the recipient conforms to the requirements set forth in the award.

Scholarships are reserved for students from the East Cooper, Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms and Mt. Pleasant, SC who attend a SC two year or four year, non-profit accredited colleges and universities. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors attending public high school in Mt. Pleasant. To be considered, scholarship applications must be completed and all required support documents must be received by the committee no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

All scholarship applicants will be advised in writing of the Committee's decisions. Letters will be mailed from the Committee office on May 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Bobby Bryant at 843-270-3900 or [bbryant78@aol.com](mailto:bbryant78@aol.com).

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### Who is eligible for the scholarship?

The awarded scholarships go to students from the East Cooper area only.

Seniors attending public High School in Mt. Pleasant, SC

Students who are citizens of the United States

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 Applicants

### 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 available make sure 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 include 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 your high school. It is wise to choose someone who knows you best and who can take the time to write a descriptive response.

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 you have written for college admission. However, make sure it falls within our scholarship application parameters (i.e. 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 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 family circumstances that may affect your family's ability to pay for college. Loss of job, illness, low income or other hardships that may be pertinent. This information is very important during the application evaluation process. Please be as specific as possible.

**What Colleges qualify for applicants?**

Scholarship recipients may attend any 2 or 4 year non-profit accredited college in the State of South Carolina.

**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 applicant agrees 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 the 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 drop below the 12 hour requirement.

Mail or email a transcript or 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 spring deadline is June 15. Notify the Committee office of a change of address and email address.

**Send application and information to:**

Friends of Santa...P.O. Box 713 Isle of Palms, SC 29451 or

Email to [friendsofsantaSC@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsantaSC@gmail.com)

Contact Bobby Bryant 843-270-3900 or [bbryant78@aol.com](mailto:bbryant78@aol.com) with any questions.