



Scholarship Programs

Administered by the

National Guard Youth Foundation

The following is the official policy governing each of the four National Guard Youth Foundation (NGYF)-administered scholarship programs.

General Requirements

Unless specified differently, applicants/awardees of any of the National Guard Youth Foundation Scholarship Programs must:

- Be Program graduates either in the Post-Residential phase or no more than 12 months out of the Post-Residential phase of the ChalleNGe Program at the time of nomination (no more than 24 months after Program graduation).
- Have a clear understanding of their educational goals and can demonstrate that the goals are attainable.
- Be in the process of applying to or already accepted for attendance by an accredited college, university, technical, or trade school or program.
- Be interested in promoting and supporting the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program and the National Guard Youth Foundation upon reaching their goals.
- Submit all application materials to the appropriate Program Directors on time.

Program Directors who accept scholarship funds from NGYF must provide the required information described for each scholarship program above within the specified timeframes.

Questions about the scholarship programs or these policies and recommendations for improvement may be directed to:

Scholarship Program
415 North Lee Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-684-5437
info@ngyf.org

NGYF Competitive Scholarship Program

NGYF offers the Competitive Scholarship Program twice a year (February-May and September-December). The purpose of the scholarship is to assist graduates of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program who plan to continue their education in college, vocational school programs or career training. Up to four scholarship recipients will be selected during each cycle: two recipients pursuing 2-year or vocational degrees will receive \$3,000 scholarships; two recipients pursuing 4-year degrees will receive \$5,000 scholarships. The \$3,000 scholarships are renewable for a second year (total of two years and \$6,000) and the \$5,000 scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years (total of four years and \$20,000). The scholarships may be awarded to a total of eight Program graduates per year (four in the \$5,000 category and four in the \$3,000 category). Depending on the amount of available scholarship funding, at NGYF discretion, the number of scholarship recipients selected during a cycle may be increased.

Scholarship Eligibility

The applicant must be a graduate of a ChalleNGe Program who plans to continue his or her education in college, a vocational school program, or career training.

Application Process

Scholarship materials and instructions will be made available to Program Directors in February and September of each year. Completed applications will be due to Program Directors in April and November of each year (exact dates will be included in the scholarship instructions for each cycle). Program Directors are responsible for determining selection criteria and for selecting their scholarship candidates.

In general, an applicant will be judged on:

- academic record
- demonstrated leadership
- participation in school and ChalleNGe activities and honors
- applicant's statement of goals and aspirations
- letter of reference from the applicant's mentor. If the mentor is not available, a letter will be accepted from a college professor, current or recent employer, or ChalleNGe Program staff member. (Letters of reference from family members or friends will not be accepted.)

Applications will be submitted to ChalleNGe Program Directors who may select one \$3,000 finalist and one \$5,000 finalist per graduating class.

The Program Directors will submit the finalist's applications to the NGYF in accordance with the directions contained in the materials and instructions provided by the NGYF. NOTE: It is especially important that all timelines are adhered to; applications received after the NGYF stated deadline for application submission cannot be accepted or processed for consideration.

Award of Scholarship

The NGYF Scholarship Committee will select the award recipients. All applicants and Program Directors will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's scholarship recipient selections* during the last month of each scholarship cycle and scholarship awards will be presented during Program graduations in June and December. Scholarship recipients have one year from the date of the award to use the scholarship funds. Also, recipients may request that funding be waived for up to one year.

- After notification of a scholarship award has been provided to the Program Director and the scholarship recipient, NGYF will provide specific instructions and a Terms of Acceptance letter to the Program Director and the scholarship recipient.
- The Program Director and the scholarship recipient are required to sign the Terms of Acceptance letter and submit to NGYF within 30 days.
- Recipients are required by these terms to supply the NGYF with complete transcripts from the previous academic year as requested. In addition, the recipients will notify the NGYF of any changes, within 15 days of the change, to contact information (address, phone number, etc.), school enrollment, or other pertinent information. If the recipient violates these terms, NGYF will revoke future funding of the scholarship.
- NGYF will pay the scholarship funds directly to the scholarship recipient's school of choice upon NGYF's confirmation of recipient's acceptance and enrollment in an appropriate program.
- A scholarship recipient may submit a written request to NGYF to delay renewing the scholarship for up to one academic year.

If the scholarship is presented during an award or graduation ceremony, NGYF requests a photograph of the presentation to be emailed to the NGYF office.

*The decisions of the NGYF Scholarship Committee are final.

Cadet of the Month Scholarship Program

Each month NGYF may select one cadet from a pool of nominees recommended by Program Directors. NGYF may award the 'Cadet of the Month' a \$1,000 scholarship on behalf of a specific NGYF corporate sponsor. The cadet's photo and excerpts from his or her essay will be featured on the NGYF website, Facebook page and e-newsletter

Scholarship Eligibility

The nominee must be a current cadet, a graduate of the Residential phase, or an individual who is not more than 6 months out of the Post-Residential phase (no more than 18 months past graduation from the Program).

Application Process

Applicants must complete a Nomination Form with the following information and forward all requested information to the appropriate Program Director:

- name and age
- hometown
- phone number and email address
- Photo (in uniform)
- 300-500 word essay written by the cadet/graduate on why the cadet/graduate decided to attend ChalleNGe and how he or she has matured thus far

Program nominations will be accepted only in March and September; all other nominations will be returned without action to the appropriate Program Director.

Scholarship applicants will be selected based on the recommendation of the Program Directors and the content of the applicant's essay. Each Program may submit only one nominee per class.

Award of Scholarship

- Funds will be distributed directly to the scholarship recipient's school of choice after NGYF has confirmed enrollment or acceptance to an institution. The funding may be used for tuition, books or campus housing.
- Scholarship recipients are required to sign Terms of Acceptance letters. Funding will be revoked if any of the terms are violated.

ChalleNGe Champion Scholarship Program

In June and December of each year, NGYF may provide each ChalleNGe program up to \$4,000 for scholarships of \$1,000 to be given, at the Program's discretion, to Youth ChalleNGe Program graduates for any advanced education or training, e.g., college, junior college, job skills/job training, skilled trades courses, computer training, cosmetology training, and any STEM related courses or training, etc. Also, rather than awarding \$1,000 scholarships, Program Directors may elect to fund other, less expensive types of approved/accredited courses such as continuing education courses or credit recovery programs for online high school credits. These scholarships are funded by the donations received from the Annual ChalleNGe Champions Gala.

Scholarship Eligibility

- Only graduates of the most recent Program graduating class are eligible for consideration.

Application Process

- Program Directors are responsible for establishing scholarship award criteria and selecting the scholarship recipient(s).

Award of Scholarship

Program Directors are responsible for selecting recipients of the scholarship funds that NGYF distributes to the Programs. In most circumstances, the scholarships will be awarded at the time of graduation and the money distributed to the awardees as soon as possible thereafter but within 90 days

of graduation. If necessary, the Program Director can submit a written request to NGYF for a waiver of the 90-day requirement, not to exceed a maximum of 180 days.

- NGYF will send scholarship funds to the associated 501(c)3 of the program.
- If a Program does not have an affiliated 501(c)3, NGYF will distribute the funds directly to the scholarship recipient's selected educational institution.
- Up-to-date contact information for affiliated 501(c)3 organizations is required for proper distribution of funds. NGYF will withhold distribution of scholarship funds until updated information is received and verified.
- Program Directors are required to provide information on the recipient and the educational institution (see specific directions below).
- If a scholarship recipient does not attend an institution of higher education, the Program Director will inform NGYF who will direct the disposition of the unused portion of the scholarship funds.
- Under no circumstances will funds be disbursed directly to the award recipients.

While Program Directors determine who receives the scholarships, NGYF must maintain strict accountability of the annual funding distributed to the Programs. Therefore, Program Directors are required to provide the following information to NGYF within 30 days following the award date of the scholarship:

- Name of scholarship recipient and contact information
- Name of recipient's educational institution, address, phone number, and point of contact
- Date of enrollment
- Category/type of training/courses that will be taken and brief description
- Amount and date of award

Program Directors must make every effort to award 100% of the scholarship funds to the graduates. However, if a Program Director determines the Program does not have enough qualified scholarship applicants during a particular cycle, or a recipient does not execute the scholarship funds (e.g., does not attend an educational institution), the Program may retain unexecuted scholarship funds to award during the next or future scholarship cycles. NGYF supports using these funds for other deserving future graduates, and Programs may maintain a scholarship account of up to \$6,000 in 'carry over' (unexecuted scholarship) funds at any given time. However, Program Directors must maintain meticulous accounting of these funds and, in addition to the required recipient information detailed above, report any scholarship 'carry over' amounts to NGYF no later than June 30 and December 31 of each year.

NGYF may withhold scholarship funding from any ChalleNGe Program if the Program or its affiliated 501(c)3 fails to comply with this requirement. In addition, NGYF may withhold additional ChalleNGe Champion Scholarship funding if a Program has exceeded \$6,000 in 'carry over' of unexecuted scholarship funds.

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