



Margaret M. Brown Scholarship Fund of the Florida Swimming Pool Association

2023-2024 Application

PURPOSE

The Florida Swimming Pool Association has established a Scholarship Fund to honor and further the education of persons selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee pursuant to the following criteria.

The award is presented by the Florida Swims Foundation. Funding for the program comes from Insurance by Ken Brown, Amerisure Insurance, and the Florida Swimming Pool Association and its members. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to more than \$1,500 based on the applicant's academics, letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, research paper and essay.

ELIGIBILITY

Residency

The applicant must be a dependent of an owner or employee who, for two or more years, has been employed by a Florida Swimming Pool Association member company. The member company must be in good standing with annual dues paid in full for that branch/location if multiple locations exist. The applicant must be sponsored by that member company.

Scholastic Standing - First time applicants

Applicants applying as entering freshman must have been accepted as a full-time student, as defined by that institution, at a regionally accredited college or community college and must have maintained a scholastic grade point average 3.0 or better for the two (2) years of high school study preceding their application. If a first-time applicant is currently enrolled in college, he/she must have carried a minimum of ten (10) hours credit or equivalent and have maintained a cumulative 3.0 grade point average.

Scholastic Standing - Applicants who have previously received a FSPA scholarship

Applicants who have previously received a FSPA scholarship must have carried a minimum of ten (10) credit hours (or full time equivalent in post-graduate programs) and have maintained a cumulative 2.67 grade point average.

All applicants shall provide documentation of the institution's letter grade equivalency for any grade point averages submitted.

APPLICATIONS

All applications and other required materials must be **received** at the Florida Swimming Pool Association office by the close of business on June 30, 2023 (not just postmarked) in order to be considered for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The items on the following page must be received in addition to the application to complete the application process and be considered for an award.

Letters of Recommendation

First-time applicants and applicants who have not previously been awarded a FSPA scholarship, must furnish three (3) letters of recommendation. Letters should address the student's scholastic ability, character, and worthiness to receive a merit award and be from three of the following: (a) a professor or teacher; (b) an employer; (c) an advisor from a volunteer or extracurricular activity; (d) a coach from a sport in which you were an athlete, or (e) your FSPA sponsoring company.

Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to the Florida Swimming Pool Association by the author or in a sealed envelope signed by the author over the seal. All letters must be **received** by June 30, 2023 (not just postmarked) or the application is considered incomplete and will not be reviewed by the selection committee.

Transcripts and Test Scores

Entering freshmen (high school graduate as of June 30): A certified copy of the student's transcript for the preceding two (2) years of high school and copies of the SAT / ACT or other generally accepted testing service scores.

College sophomore (freshman year completed as of June 30): A certified copy of the student's college spring semester grades must be included. If the applicant is not a previous recipient of this scholarship, also include a certified copy of high school transcript and copies of the student's SAT / ACT or other generally accepted testing service scores.

All others: A certified copy of the student's college transcript(s), including spring semester grades, must be included.

Please make a request with your institution to have an official transcript mailed directly to the Florida Swimming Pool Association. Transcripts must be **received** no later than June 30, 2023 (not just postmarked) or the application is considered incomplete and will not be reviewed by the selection committee.

Research Paper

All first-time applicants and applicants who have not previously been awarded a FSPA scholarship, shall complete a research paper on the purpose of a trade association. The paper must be submitted in typed form and double spaced. See additional requirements on the topic list on page 6.

The research paper is optional for previous FSPA scholarship award recipients. Applicants who do not submit a research paper will be limited to an award of less than \$1,000. To be considered for an award greater than \$1,000, the applicant must complete the research paper and have a minimum GPA of 2.8. Please note: Submitting a research paper does not guarantee scholarship award will exceed \$1,000. Please see the approved topic list for previous recipient research papers and requirements on page 6.

Brief Essay (250-300 words)

All applicants must write a brief essay which shall be submitted in typed form and double spaced.

The FSPA's core values are Integrity, Adaptability, Reliability, Accountability and Collaboration. Identify which of these is important to you and explain why, or if not, select your own core values (minimum of 3) and express why they matter to you and how you apply them in your everyday life. Give at least one specific example per core value.

AWARDS

The Scholarship Selection Committee shall base its awards upon scholastic achievement, character and worthiness.

Awards shall be transmitted to the academic institution for the fall semester of study. Failure to request the funds within 45 days of the announcement of the awards may be grounds for forfeiture of the award. Any excess award funds must be returned to the Florida Swims Foundation within the year received. Awards will not be transmitted until the sponsor company has renewed their membership for 2023-2024.

The Scholarship Selection Committee may require first-time award recipient to attend a designated Florida Swimming Pool Association Board of Directors meeting to receive his or her award.



Applicant Information

Full Name of Applicant: _____

Street Address (to send information relating to scholarship application): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Applicant Phone: (____) _____ Applicant e-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent Phone: (____) _____ *This # should be the best way to reach your parent / guardian.*

APPLICANT CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

**First-Time Applicants /
No previous award received**

- Application complete (pages 3-5)
- 1st Letter of recommendation
- 2nd Letter of recommendation
- 3rd Letter of recommendation
- Transcript – High School
- Transcript – College (including Spring 2023 grades)
- Standardized test scores
- Research paper on trade association (print and electronic version)*
- Essay on greatest accomplishment or life changing experience
- Membership of sponsor confirmed
- Cumulative GPA 3.0 average or higher

**Previous Scholarship Recipient
Applicants**

- Application complete (pages 3-5)
- Transcript – College (including Spring 2023 grades)
- Essay on a significant experience
- Research paper - OPTIONAL (print and electronic version)*
- Membership of sponsor confirmed
- Cumulative GPA 2.67 average or higher

All materials must be **received** (not postmarked) in the FSPA office by 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2023.

*Electronic versions of papers can be emailed to valerie@FloridaPoolPro.com



Full Name of Applicant: _____

Education Information

High School Graduating Class of 2023:

Name of High School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Rank in Class: _____ of _____

SAT/ACT: _____ / _____ GPA (weighted): _____

Name of College planning to attend: _____

Entrance Year: _____

Colleges accepted to but not attending: _____

Research Paper Topic: _____

College Students:

Name of College: (Undergraduate) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year of Enrollment: _____

Year of Graduation: (Anticipated) _____

GPA: _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Name of College: (Graduate) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year of Enrollment: _____

Year of Graduation: (Anticipated) _____

GPA: _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Research Paper Topic: _____

Sponsor Information

Sponsoring FSPA Member Company : _____

Chapter: _____ Membership #: _____

I am a dependent of: Owner Employee (Check one)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

How many years employed by this company? _____

What involvement does your sponsor have with FSPA on a local and / or state level?

Additional Information about Applicant (Please feel free to attach supplemental information)

In what activities / clubs / sports have you participated: (List activity and year participated)

Please list all charity / volunteer work and paid employment, including the number of hours per week.

Reasons for applying for this award:

What course of study / career path do you intend to follow:

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN BY June 30, 2023
Florida Swimming Pool Association
Attn: Scholarship Selection Committee
2555 Porter Lake Drive, Suite 106
Sarasota, FL 34240-7865

All materials must be **received** (not just postmarked) in the FSPA office by 5:00 p.m. on June 30.

2023 RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

Applicants may answer any or all parts of the question in their research paper.
Papers will be reviewed based on quality, length and content.

ALL FIRST TIME APPLICANTS and APPLICANTS WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARDED A FSPA SCHOLARSHIP (no matter the level of study)

1. What is the purpose of a trade association and their role in American business? If you were a small business owner and joined the FSPA, what membership benefits would most appeal to you and why? How would you integrate those benefits into your daily operations, and to what positive outcomes? Provide a strategy to communicate the benefits of membership in a trade association.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

1. In 2022, two major weather events impacted the state of Florida in the form of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. What impacts do weather catastrophes have on businesses (labor, materials, etc.) short term and long term? Considering that the FSPA has both a 501c6 trade association and 501c3 charitable foundation, what strategies could we have implemented to benefit our member businesses? Focus not just on what we did do, but also other ideas and concepts you believe member businesses would have found valuable.
2. Maintaining a strong workforce is a cornerstone of a successful business. As companies see an increase in business and a decrease in available workforce, how can they overcome staffing challenges? What can FSPA do to be part of a solution to workforce shortages?
3. What are the current trends in homeowners creating a “backyard environment” and how are these trends affecting the pool and spa industry in Florida? Explore ways which the FSPA can assist members in fulfilling expectations and needs of their clients regarding this trend.
4. The Florida Swims Foundation provides swim lessons for children all across Florida. How can FSPA and the Foundation promote water safety awareness and the importance of swim lessons to parents? More specifically, how can FSPA and the Foundation educate new parents with children not yet old enough to be in the school system?

ALL PAPERS

- PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED - Submit in Microsoft Word on a USB drive or by e-mail.
- MINIMUM OF FIVE (5) REFERENCES, INCLUDING ONE PRIMARY SOURCE (LIVE INTERVIEW).
- MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) INTERNET REFERENCES
- MUST BE BETWEEN 700 - 1,500 WORDS. PAPERS WILL BE REVIEWED FOR CONTENT AND QUALITY.
- BIBLIOGRAPHY MUST BE INCLUDED

RETURN BY June 30, 2023
Florida Swimming Pool Association
Attn: Scholarship Selection Committee
2555 Porter Lake Drive, Suite 106
Sarasota, FL 34240-7865

Questions? Call:
Ph: (941) 952-9293
Fax: (941) 366-7433
e-mail documents to Valerie@FloridaPoolPro.com

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