

Pioneers
Scholarship Program
General Information
2009



Establishment of the Scholarship Program

The Pioneers scholarship program was established to further the education focus of the Pioneers and its efforts to build healthy communities through individual and family involvement and commitment to community service. The scholarship program provides Pioneers a means to help prepare young citizens to live healthy and productive lives.

The scholarship program is designed to meet a community need and to provide a benefit to members of the Pioneers organization. This program applies only to Pioneers family members and is not open to the general public.

The Alexander Graham Bell Golf Classic was established in 2000 as a means to provide financial support for the scholarship program. The title sponsor for the inaugural golf tournament was AT&T under the leadership of 2000-01 Pioneers President Hal Burlingame.

Program Description

This program provides scholarships annually to relatives of Pioneers. Two scholarships per Pioneers group will be awarded each academic school year.

The scholarship program is awarded based on applicant involvement in community service, school and leadership activities and academic achievement.

The scholarship is a one-time award in the amount of \$1,000. The funds are payable to an accredited post-secondary institution, skill/training center or trade school. The funds are provided to assist students with tuition, required registration or other fees.

Eligibility

High school seniors who are relatives of Pioneers are eligible to apply. The student need not be a dependent of nor live in the same residence with the Pioneers member. The student may be a relative of a regular, dues-paying Pioneers member, a Life Member, Associate or Honorary member as defined by the Corporation's Bylaws. The student must be planning to enter an accredited post-secondary institution or trade school upon graduation from high school. The applicant must have a minimum grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.0 point grade scale, 3.1 on a 5.0 point grade scale, or at least a cumulative numerical grade of 80 out of 100 or better in all academic courses.

Relatives of current officers of the Corporation's Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Pioneers Charitable Foundation Board are not eligible to apply.

Application Process

Eligible students must complete the scholarship application and submit the requested documentation certifying community service, school involvement and an essay describing the applicant's involvement in volunteerism, his/her accomplishments and the importance of volunteerism. The applicant must also submit a certified copy of the most current high school cumulative grade transcript. The Corporation will begin accepting applications on November 15 of each year. The postmark deadline for filing an application is Feb. 28 of each year. All information should be sent to:

**Pioneers Scholarship Program Administrator
930 15th Street, 12th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80202**

While applications are available on the Pioneers web site, the hard-copy application must be submitted with original signatures of the student applicant and the related Pioneers member. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Applications are evaluated on the information supplied. Therefore, applications not including all requested information by the due date are ineligible for consideration. All information received is considered confidential.

Each applicant will be notified to acknowledge receipt of their application.

Selection Process

Applications will first be sorted by Pioneers group.

The recipients will be selected on the basis of performance in three key areas. Each of the three areas is assigned a point value. Each applicant may receive from 0 up to the total points allotted in each category:

1. Community Service and School Involvement Letters –(50 points) The applicant is asked to provide from 1 to 3 one-page letters of documentation from non-family members describing the applicant's volunteer involvement and accomplishments. At least one of the letters should describe community service and at least one should describe school activities and the applicant's impact on the project.

2. Academic and Leadership Activities in School – (25 points) The applicant is required to indicate cumulative GPA or cumulative numerical grade along with a copy of the most current high school grade transcript and describe leadership roles while in high school.

3. **Written Essay** – (25 points) Essay describing in 1,000 words or less what has been the most rewarding community service activity the applicant has participated in and why it was important to the applicant. The essay should include 5 basic points:

- _ The applicant's role in the project.
 - _ Time spent on the project – hours, days, etc.
 - _ Is the project a one-time or an ongoing effort?
 - _ Impact of project on applicant.
 - _ Why student feels his/her involvement in the project qualifies them to apply for this scholarship.
- Each of the three performance areas will be assigned a point value by individual judges, then summarized for a final result. Highest total scores win. Each applicant will be notified whether or not they will be awarded a scholarship. Individual feedback about the judges' evaluation will not be provided. The decision of the Pioneers is final.

Judges

Recipients are selected by a panel of external judges who are not employees of the Corporation or its sponsoring companies. A Pioneers staff member will oversee the process, but will not participate in judging.

Recipient Notification and Presentation

Scholarship recipients will be announced by mid-April.

- _ The Pioneers will send a letter of notification to the scholarship recipient along with a copy to the respective Group Vice President for local announcements and recognition.
- _ Recognition of recipients at local Pioneers events, in sponsor company publications and at Pioneers training conferences is recommended.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who can apply for this scholarship?

A. Family members of Regular, Life, Associate and Honorary Pioneers members.

Q. How are family members defined?

A. Family member is defined in the broadest sense and includes immediate and extended family — children, grandchildren, stepchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers and sisters.

Q. How are scholarships awarded?

A. A maximum of two scholarships will be awarded to each Pioneer sponsor/group per year, based on established criteria as defined in brochures provided by the Pioneers with the scholarship application.

Q. Are scholarship awards based on financial need?

A. No. Scholarship awards are based on the three key areas defined in the selection process.

Q. Some Pioneers groups are national and international, will more than two scholarships be granted within those units by the Pioneers?

A. No. Based on the current program design, size of the group does not determine nor impact the number of scholarships granted by the Pioneers.

Q. Will the number of scholarships awarded change?

A. As with any program, changes may occur over time as circumstances, funding, administration and other key factors critical to the scholarship program change.

Q. How are the scholarships funded?

A. In year one, the scholarships were funded by seed money obtained from several of the Pioneers sponsor companies and external contributors to the first Alexander Graham Bell Golf Classic. In succeeding years, the scholarship funding will be sought through support of private individual and corporate contributors external to the Pioneers organization and current sponsor companies.

Q. Is local administration of the Pioneers Scholarship Program required?

A. No. The local Pioneers have no responsibility for the administration of the program. All Pioneers members are encouraged to share information regarding the availability of the scholarship program and how relatives of Pioneers members may avail themselves of this member benefit.

Q. How might I appeal scholarship allocations?

A. The scholarship awards are based on criteria established by the Pioneers and Pioneers decisions are final. Information submitted by the applicant and any information utilized in selecting recipients is confidential and is the property of the Corporation not subject to disclosure.

Q. How are judges selected?

A. Judges may be selected through a variety of means as deemed appropriate by the Pioneers scholarship program administrator. Judges will be non-Pioneers who may be a representative of a Pioneers partnership organization or other community-based organizations.

Q. Are all Pioneers family members eligible to submit

A. Family members of Pioneers are eligible, with the exception of family members of current Pioneers leadership: the Pioneers Chairman, President, Group Vice Presidents, Advisory Board, and Pioneers Charitable Foundation Board members.

Q. Are family members of Pioneers staff eligible to participate?

A. Yes. Pioneers staff family members are eligible to participate. Their family members' applications would be submitted as part of the Pioneers group to which they pay dues or with which they are affiliated as a Life Member.

Q. Can multiple family members submit an application during the same period?

A. Yes. A Pioneer may have multiple family member applications submitted as long as each applicant is in their senior year of high school and meets all other established program criteria for submitting an application.

Q. Can parts of the application be submitted at different times as long as all information is in by the deadline?

A. No. All information to be considered as part of the application MUST be submitted together. Information received with the application will be considered the entire submission and will be evaluated solely on that information.

Q. Can part of the information be submitted by FAX and part submitted through the mail?

A. No. All information to be considered MUST BE MAILED together with the application as one package postmarked by February 28. Faxes and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Q. Will scholarships be payable to the applicant if career plans change and the applicant does not enter an accredited institution as defined in the program?

A. No. Scholarships will not be payable to individuals. The scholarships are designed to assist scholarship recipients with expenses associated with school tuition, required registration and other fees. Funds will be sent directly to the institution indicated by the scholarship winner.

Q. If I no longer have a sponsor company, but I am a Pioneer, can my family members apply for a scholarship?

A. Your eligible family members may apply if you are a dues-paying regular member or if you are a Life, Associate or Honorary member as defined by the Pioneers Bylaws.

Q. Will all scholarship awards be \$1,000?

A. Yes, each recipient will receive the same amount.

Q. How long must I have been a Pioneer before my family members may be eligible to apply for a Pioneers scholarship?

A. Immediately upon authorizing payroll deductions for your Pioneers membership dues, your eligible family members may apply.

