

Tourette Association of America – Oklahoma Chapter

Post-Secondary Education Scholarship

(Revised 10/2020)

The Oklahoma Chapter of the Tourette Association of America (TAA-OK) supports students diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome in their post-secondary academic pursuits in either public or private schools. Scholarship funds are designated for tuition and school expenses and the value of the scholarship is determined by the kind of institution as described in the *Guidelines*. Scholarship applications are accepted year round and scholarships are awarded at the beginning of the academic semester following review of the application by the selection committee. The selection of recipients is at the sole discretion of the Oklahoma Chapter of TAA. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic achievement, extra-curricular involvement, and their personal accomplishments of dealing with the complex and challenging characteristics of Tourette Syndrome.

Guidelines

- Post-secondary education includes career tech, two-year and four-year college, and four-year university programs leading to a certification or degree. Applicant can be a full-time or part-time student.
- Student applicant must provide proof of a Tourette Syndrome diagnosis from a certified physician.
- Student applicant/applicant's family must reside in Oklahoma when initially applying for a scholarship.
- Scholarship amounts depend on the institution a student plans to attend. The educational institution needs not be in Oklahoma. A student attending a career tech program could receive \$500 per year for up to two years. A student attending a college or university could receive \$750 for each of the first two years and \$1,000 per year for the third and fourth years.
- Scholarship applicant participates in an interview with representatives of the scholarship selection committee when the applicant initially applies for a scholarship.
- Scholarship renewal requires a scholarship recipient to be in good academic standing at her/his academic institution and to be on track toward earning a certification or degree.
- Each year a scholarship recipients receives the scholarship, she/he is required to undertake one activity/project that increases awareness and understanding of Tourette Syndrome. Examples of communicating awareness include using social media, a student or local newspaper, a class project or a presentation to a local group (student, staff, faculty, civic or community club). The activity/project can be coordinated with an Oklahoma TS Chapter representative. Non-compliance with this requirement disqualifies the applicant for continuing the scholarship the following year.
- Number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the number of qualified applicants.

Application Procedure

Each applicant is required to:

- Complete the application form found at the Oklahoma chapter's website, tsa-ok.org.
- Provide a letter from a certified physician verifying a diagnosis of Tourette Syndrome.
- Submit a 500-word essay (double spaced) that includes the following: a. self-description, b. experience with having Tourette Syndrome, c. the institution you (applicant) plans to attend, d. current academic major, e. career aspirations, and f. initial plans (may be modified later) to increase awareness and understanding of Tourette Syndrome. The essay form is located at the tsa-ok.org website.
- Provide a recent photo of self.
- Provide support from two references (teacher, counselor, clergy, employer, volunteer supervisor, etc.). References may use the reference form found at the chapter's website or provide a letter of reference.
- May submit an application for review anytime during the year by mailing application materials to:
Scholarship Selection Committee
c/o Tourette Association of America – Oklahoma Chapter
5023 W 3rd Avenue
Stillwater OK 74074

