

P.E.O. STAR Scholarship Procedures and General Information



POLICY GUIDELINES

I. PURPOSE

The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship is a highly competitive one-time \$2,500 scholarship recognizing graduating high school senior women who demonstrate outstanding talent, leadership ability and academic achievement; and who plan to pursue full or part-time post-secondary educational opportunities in the United States or Canada beginning in the fall following their high school graduation.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A young woman is eligible for recommendation if she:

- is a graduating senior, age 20 or under by the application deadline of November 30.
- is in the final academic year (senior year) of her secondary education by application deadline.
- exhibits excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for success.
- has a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- is a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or Canada.
- plans to attend an accredited post-secondary educational institution in the U.S. or Canada, full or part-time, in the fall of the academic year following high school graduation.
- is recommended by the vote of a local chapter.

Applications from individuals satisfying these eligibility criteria will be evaluated on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to geographical region, race, national origin, religious affiliation or disability. Applications from home-schooled or on-line students enrolled in accredited high school programs may also be submitted.

III. SCHOLARSHIPS

The P.E.O. STAR Scholarships are given once each year for the ensuing academic year. The number of scholarships given is in accordance with the annual funds available.

P.E.O. STAR Scholarships to Canadian women will be paid in Canadian dollars. The only exception will be if a Canadian recipient attends a U.S. institution and incurs expenses in U.S. dollars, then payment may be in U.S. dollars if requested by the recipient.

RECOMMENDATION PROCEDURES

I. RECOMMENDATION

Recommendations for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship shall only be accepted from local chapters. The chapter should be familiar with the accomplishments and academic status of their applicant and be satisfied that she meets the criteria for eligibility. A personal interview is recommended and the applicant should be advised of the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship requirements.

II. CHAPTER APPROVAL

Local chapter approval is granted by a majority voice vote at a regular business or special meeting. Each local chapter shall be permitted to recommend one applicant per academic year.

III. SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATION PACKET

Chapter Recommendation Forms and Student Application Forms are available on the P.E.O. website. The chapter shall complete the appropriate forms and include a one-page letter introducing and detailing their knowledge of the applicant. The student shall complete and provide the recommending chapter with the following: appropriate forms, two sealed letters of recommendation and an official transcript through the 11th grade (junior year). Canadian applicants must include a copy of their Province Conversion Scale with their transcript. The chapter shall send all materials in one packet by the deadline date.

Recommendations shall be accepted through the postmark deadline of November 30. An email shall be sent to the recommending chapter when the application packet has been received.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

P.E.O. STAR Scholarship recipients will be announced each year by April 30.

Notification letters will be sent to all applicants and recommending chapters. Certificates for successful applicants will be sent to the recommending chapters. Chapters recommending successful applicants should determine an appropriate venue, open to the general public, at which to present their recognition certificate.

Scholarship funds will be sent, at the determination of the recipient, either directly to the institution or to the individual recipient. Institutions will receive the entire scholarship amount to be divided equally between the two semesters/terms. Recipients receiving scholarship funds directly will have their scholarship divided into two payments. The first payment will be sent after August 1 and the second payment upon submission and receipt of a new Confirmation of Enrollment Form for the second semester/term, due to the executive office no later than January 31.

ACCEPTANCE OF SCHOLARSHIP

To receive P.E.O. STAR Scholarship funds, an applicant must:

- enroll in an accredited post-secondary institution full or part-time in the fall following her high school graduation. (Funds will be forfeited if enrollment does not occur.)
- remit an official Confirmation of Enrollment prior to the first semester/term enrollment. Those receiving funds directly will be required to submit a new Confirmation of Enrollment before the second semester/term.

LOCAL CHAPTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Chapters are encouraged to remain in touch with the applicants they recommend by offering support and encouragement.

Please refer to the P.E.O. website for P.E.O. STAR Scholarship forms and additional information.