



GRAND CHAPTER OF NEBRASKA Order of the Eastern Star

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**TO: Chapter Scholarship Committee or Chairman
Chapter Worthy Matron and Secretary**

RE: Scholarship Program for the 2019-2020 School Year

It is time once again to bring you information on the Scholarship Program for the 2019-2020 school year. While the process is basically the same, please be reminded that the Grand Chapter will help fund one \$500 scholarship. Any additional scholarships given in 2019 will need to be funded entirely by the Chapter. **Please read the following information carefully and keep it for future reference:**

Please use the following steps to ensure a pleasant experience for your Chapter and for your scholarship recipient(s).

A. Determine the number of scholarships your Chapter wishes to give and the amount of each scholarship.

- 1. First Scholarship:** Your Chapter must provide at least \$50. The Grand Chapter will provide **\$450** so that the minimum amount of this scholarship will be **\$500**. *Your Chapter may contribute additional funds* to increase the size of the scholarship, but the maximum amount that Grand Chapter will contribute is \$450.
- 2. Additional Scholarships:** Your Chapter may send money for additional scholarships and have them administered through the office of the Grand Secretary. The Grand Chapter provides no additional funds for these additional scholarships.
- 3. Note for Chapters that have had consolidations:** If because of consolidations your Chapter is supporting more than two communities by providing scholarships and you would like to change the allocation of your scholarship funds, please contact the Grand Chapter office at 402-937-7056.

B. Notify your High School(s) of the availability of the award, or appoint a committee from your Chapter to select a recipient. Either the High School or the Chapter may now select the recipient.

1. Notify the high school or the committee as to the number and amounts of the scholarships as soon as possible so that they have ample time to select a recipient.
2. Guidelines for selection and a sample application form are enclosed should your high school or committee desire to use them.
3. A sample press release is enclosed to assist your Chapter in publicizing your scholarship. This is a good way to let the students know that the scholarship is available and will also make your Chapter “visible in your community”.

4. Be sure that your high school contact or scholarship chairman knows that you must have the name of the recipient to the Grand Chapter Office by May 1, 2019. Names of the recipients will not be revealed.

C. Complete the “Notification of Award” form included in this mailing.

1. **Please send the funds with the Notification of Award form when you receive the name of the recipient. (Make check payable to the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.) Please send the Notification of Award form—not the application.**
2. Notification must be received no later than May 1, 2019. A scholarship certificate will be mailed to you in time to present it at your high school’s awards or graduation ceremony.

D. Upon receipt of the Notification of Award form the Grand Chapter office will send a Scholarship Certificate for each student awarded a scholarship. If possible present the Scholarship Certificate to the recipient during the high school’s graduation or awards program, publish a picture of your recipient(s) in the local paper and/or invite the students and parents to one of your Chapter events so that they will get some exposure to Eastern Star. *Your Chapter can benefit if you take time to get the publicity.*

E. Give the recipient the “Verification of Enrollment” Form.

1. Perhaps you can give this form to the recipient at the same time that the Scholarship Certificate is presented. *Please put your Chapter name and mailing address on bottom of this form so the student will know where to send a thank you note.*
2. **Make sure the student knows it is his responsibility to see that this form is signed by someone in the admissions office of the school he is planning to attend and he must ask the school to return it to the Grand Chapter office. The verification of Enrollment form must be received by December 31, 2019 or the scholarship will be forfeited and the money will be credited back to the Chapter and Grand Chapter to be used the next year.**
3. The Grand Chapter must have this form returned before it can dispense the money. All funds are sent directly to the Office of Financial Aid of the College or University.

Please discuss this with your membership at your next stated meeting. It will be important to notify your high school students of this scholarship as soon as possible as high school seniors are already planning for next year. If you or your high school has any questions or if I can be of any help to you in this program, call my office at 402-937-7056.

Fraternally,



Jan Thoman PGM
Grand Secretary

Enclosures: Guideline for Selection
Sample Application
Sample Press Release
Notification of Award Form—Mail with funds to Grand Chapter office by May 1, 2019
Verification of Enrollment Form—Give to the student when scholarship certificate is presented
(Forms may be duplicated as necessary)

**APPLICATION
EASTERN STAR SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING IS APRIL 1**

Name _____

Address _____

High School _____

Grade Point Average _____ Class Rank _____

Please give a brief statement on the following topics:

1. Indicate your plans for higher education and your goals for the future.

2. Explain the need for scholarships and other aid in financing higher education.

3. Why do you consider yourself a person of high moral character?

4. List organizations you have been active in at school, church and in your community during the past four years.

List any full or part time jobs you have had in the past four years.

5. Describe any volunteer work or activities that would indicate your role as a citizen in your community.

6. Please attach a letter of recommendation from a school official or teacher.

EASTERN STAR SCHOLARSHIP
Presented by the Local Chapter
Order of the Eastern Star

DESCRIPTION

Each year Local Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star in the State of Nebraska provide scholarships of varying amounts to high school seniors in the local community. The scholarship is to be used at the institution of higher learning or technical training center of the student's choice.

SELECTION GUIDELINES

The recipient is selected by the local Chapter or the Chapter may request the local high school to select a recipient. The following guidelines are suggested in the selection of recipients:

- ❖ **The Eastern Star Scholarship should be awarded to the high school senior who best exemplifies good citizenship and high moral character.**
- ❖ **While scholastic standing and parental finances may be considered, neither are the sole criteria in the selection of a recipient.**
- ❖ **It is not the intent of the Order of the Eastern Star that these scholarships be awarded exclusively or primarily to relatives of Eastern Star members or to members of Masonic youth organizations (Job's Daughters, Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay), however these students are not to be excluded from consideration. These scholarships are available to all youth in the community.**
- ❖ **The high school or Chapter Scholarship Committee may at its discretion request interested students to submit a letter or application (A sample Application is attached).**

The names of recipient must be submitted to the local Eastern Star Chapter before May 1, 2019. The Grand Chapter will not reveal the names of the recipients.

Sample News Release for Announcing OES Scholarships

Note: We hope that this sample press release will help you publicize the availability of your scholarship(s) and gain visibility for your Chapter in your community. Most local newspapers are happy to publish your news articles. They prefer typed, double spaced articles. Be sure to express your thanks if the paper consents to publish your news!

Scholarship Available for High School Seniors

_____ Chapter No. ____, Order of the Eastern Star of _____
_____(location) is making available ____ (number) scholarships in the
amount of \$_____ (amount) each. All high school seniors are eligible to
apply for these scholarships. Selection will be based on evidence of good
citizenship and high moral character as well as scholastic standing and
financial need. Seniors interested in applying for these scholarships may
contact _____ (officer or committee member in charge of the
Chapter's scholarship program) at _____ (address and phone
number) or (if this applies) you may contact your local high school guidance
councilor who has been provided with information and application forms.
_____ Chapter is providing these scholarships in cooperation with
the Grand Chapter of Nebraska, Order of the Eastern Star. The generosity of
the members of the Eastern Star in Nebraska has made it possible for the
members in Nebraska to provide funds for scholarships to High School
Seniors across the state for the 2019-2020 school year.



What is the Order of the Eastern Star?

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men may belong. Members are comprised of men who are Master Masons, as were many of our country's great leaders—George Washington, Harry Truman, Francis Scott Key, Henry Ford, and not to forget—Buffalo Bill Cody! Women in the organization must have a specific relationship to a Master Mason, such as being the wife, daughter, granddaughter, mother, widow, or sister of a Master Mason. Eastern Star is, however, a completely separate organization from the Masonic Lodge, though we often meet in the same building.

Our organization is not a religion. Our teachings are sometimes referred to as “Secret”; however, the lessons taught within our meetings are based on heroines whose stories are told in the Bible. As members we try to exemplify the noble principles and high moral conduct which the stories of those heroines portray.

In Nebraska there are 72 Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star in communities across the state, and currently there are over 6,000 members. Each year these members contribute thousands of dollars and devote hours of volunteer services to worthy projects. This scholarship program is just one of those projects. Again, this year Nebraska Eastern Star members will give scholarships to high school seniors across the state. Members support activities within their own community as well as projects promoted by the state body, the Grand Chapter of Nebraska, and the General Grand Chapter, the body which oversees Chapters all over the world. Nebraska members support the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children located in Fremont Nebraska and we assist with many projects of the Nebraska Masonic Lodge including The Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Clinic, the CHIP Program (Child Identification Program) and Service Dogs. Each year a “Special Project” is also selected to receive our support. Some of these projects have included the Juvenile Diabetes Association, Make-a-Wish Foundation of Nebraska, Salvation Army, Alzheimer's Research, Multiple Sclerosis, Red Cross, Diabetes Education Center of the Midlands, Rite Care, Wounded Warriors Family Support and this year Back Pack Program. We also support Job's Daughters, Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay for Boys, youth groups which are a part of our own “Masonic Family”.

For more information on becoming a part of our Masonic Family, contact the local Chapter who presented you with this scholarship or you may contact the Grand Chapter of Nebraska: 402-937-7056 or nebraskaoes@msn.com.

Congratulations on receiving this scholarship from your local Chapter. We send our best wishes to you for a successful college experience.