

National Youth Cutting Horse Association Scholarship Application Contents

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National Youth Cutting Horse Association

Scholarship Application Guidelines

The National Youth Cutting Horse Association (NYCHA) provides financial assistance to members of the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) and the NYCHA through scholarships funded by the NCHA Foundation (formerly referred to as Cutters In Action, or CIA) and the Dogwood Foundation. Applications must be completed from the NCHA's website at: www.nychaonline.com/scholarships.

Deadline for all applications is April 1, and awards will be announced by May 15th. Applications may be submitted electronically to youth@nchacutting.com, or mailed and received by April 1 to:

NCHA Foundation, Attn: NYCHA Scholarships
260 Bailey Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Questions or inquiries should be directed to the NYCHA Youth Coordinator, Nevada Huffman at 979-966-3248, or nhuffman@nchacutting.com.

Applications must be completed in full and should be typed (preferred) or printed neatly.

***Faxed applications will not be accepted.
Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.***

1. NCHA Foundation Scholarship - For graduating high school students only

PURPOSE

One of the Foundation's top priorities is the betterment and education of our youth by helping them get to and through college. We are committed to growing our endowment and partnering with other organizations to further the impact we can make each year on our youth, and on our future.

DESCRIPTION

Scholarship amounts vary and are awarded on a point system determined by an independent selection committee. Scholarships will be paid directly to the college or university in the student's name. The NCHA Foundation supports these scholarships through individual donations, fundraising and investment growth.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- *Be a good standing member of NYCHA for 3 years or more AND have participated in the Levels of Excellence Award Program (LEAP).*
- *Applicant must submit an essay (no more than 1,000 words) on "What makes me an outstanding candidate for leadership, academic excellence and community engagement were I to receive this financial assistance"?*
- *Rank in the upper 50 percent of their high school graduating class and achieve a minimum test score of a 20 on the ACT and a 950 on the SAT.*
- *The gross household income of the applicant must be less than \$150,000.*
- *Applicant must submit minimum one letter of recommendation pertaining to them (cannot be related).*

2. The Dogwood Foundation Scholarship - For graduating high-school seniors, or college students up to 21 years old by April 1 of the application year

This scholarship is an annual \$2,000 scholarship payable in equal shares in the fall and spring semesters, made possible by the generosity of the Merrill family and the Dogwood Foundation. The amount awarded is paid to the college or university in the student's name. Up to four scholarships will be awarded yearly.

APPLICANT MUST:

- *Have been a member of the NYCHA for at least three years and have participated in the Levels of Excellence Award Program (LEAP).*
- *Applicant must submit an essay (no more than 1,000 words) "What makes me an outstanding candidate for leadership, sportsmanship and showmanship for the Dogwood Foundation Scholarship.*
- *Applicant must submit 2 letter(s) of recommendation pertaining to them.*
 - *Please see Reference Forms for more information.*

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility of applications will be based on the individual criteria and requirements provided for each scholarship listed above. The following items must be included with each application. Applicants are ineligible for consideration if one or more support materials are not submitted by the scholarship deadline. Applicants must be high school graduate or GED recipient. Current high school seniors about to graduate are eligible to apply. It is the scholarship applicant's responsibility to contact the Youth Coordinator, Nevada Huffman, in order to determine if all scholarship application materials have been received. You will not be notified of missing details of your application.

- *An applicant who has completed at least one semester of college must have a college GPA of at least 3.0 in the semester immediately prior to submitting an application with a minimum of 12 credit hours. Applicant must be continuing undergraduate degree.*
- *An applicant must not reach age 21 by April 1 in the year that application for the first grant is made.*
- *Funds are not transferable to studies overseas unless payment continues to be made to the US College, University or trade school.*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Only applicable to NCHA FOUNDATION, not applicable to Dogwood Foundation grants)

Applicants must provide personal financial information verifying the \$150,000 or below combined household income requirement. If the prior year's tax return was extended, then either the year-end W-2 or 1099 verifying income must accompany a copy of the extension filed. If the applicant's combined income shows a significant financial loss on the return, a statement of explanation must accompany the return. The noncustodial parent's (or guardian's) return must also be submitted if the applicant receives more than half of the applicant's support from the non-custodial parent during the awarded year. Support includes; money, gifts, loans, housing, food clothes, car, medical and dental care, payment of college costs, etc. Failure to provide financial information will result in application disqualification.

ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

Applicants must provide a recent OFFICIAL school transcript. Transcripts should contain a cumulative scholastic average ending with the current academic year. This average must be expressed either as a numerical percentage, such as 97/100%, or as a ratio based off the 4.0 scale. Transcripts should also contain the applicant's reported ACT and SAT scores. It is the student's responsibility to request and subsequently submit the required transcript by the scholarship deadline indicated. Please have the school email transcripts to youth@nchacutting.com.

Failure to provide academic information will result in application disqualification.

Transcripts forwarded directly to the NYCHA Office from the student's school and or college will be accepted. However, all academic documents must be received no later than the application deadline referenced.

Applicants enrolled in advance placements, dual credit and or college preparatory courses should provide an official transcript from each school the applicant is attending. If the student's high school transcript contains the scoring information from dual credit and or college courses, then a transcript from the college attended will not be required. All documents should have an official signature or school seal.

All requirements and conditions apply to home-schooled applicants.

REFERENCE FORMS

All applicants must provide two completed Scholarship Reference Forms (see below). High School Seniors are required to submit a completed copy of the Counselor's Reference Form to be completed by their High School Counselor and/or teacher. College students are required to submit a completed form from their College Advisor and/or Professor. ALL applicants must submit the Reference Form from an NCHA Area Director or Affiliate Officer. Please see individual documents for full details pertaining to forms.

Reference forms forwarded directly to the NYCHA Office will be accepted. Signed references only may be emailed to the NCHA Youth Department, via indicated email in these guidelines. However, all documents must be received no later than the application deadline referenced. It is the student's responsibility to request and subsequently submit the required appraisal forms or references by the scholarship deadline indicated.

Failure to provide reference forms will result in application disqualification.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS of the Dogwood scholarship are eligible to re-apply, but no scholarships will be automatically renewed. An updated application must be submitted each year for consideration. Applicants re-applying for a scholarship will be evaluated on the basis of their college record from the time the last grant was awarded to the time the pending application is reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee.

An applicant accepted to one of the Government Military Academies* is considered to have a full scholarship and will NOT be eligible to receive any of these awards. *Government Military Academies include: U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Military Academy (West Point), U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY DURING THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PERIOD

The recipient must be currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in an accredited university, college or trade school. Full time requires the completion of 12 credit hours per semester. Students who have a grade of incomplete ("I") at the end of the semester will not be considered for renewal if they fail to complete 12 hours.

The recipient must maintain a GPA of 3.0 in each of the semesters the scholarship is granted. Students who fail to maintain a 3.0 semester GPA but achieve at least a 2.5 semester GPA during the scholarship award period may be granted a probationary period during the following semester only. Probation is not available for any subsequent semesters. Students who fail to obtain at least a 2.5 semester GPA during the scholarship award will not be considered for probation and the student will not receive the scholarship. A student who is on probation must obtain a 3.0 semester GPA during the probationary semester in order to re-apply for the scholarship. Eligibility to continue on scholarship is reviewed at the end of the fall (December) and spring (May) semesters. Summer term grades are reviewed as part of the student's overall college record if the student applies for renewal but will not be used for determining reinstatement of scholarship or cause a student to go on probation. It is the student's responsibility to submit a copy of semester grades to the NYCHA office at the end of each semester.

Applicants will submit a general application which will be evaluated against individual scholarship criteria in order to determine eligibility. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide all required documents for each scholarship they would like to be considered for. The qualifications and submitted documents will determine which scholarship(s) category(ies) they will be classified in. The scholarship selection committee will determine all these factors.

Selected recipients may receive only one scholarship at a time.

Mail complete applications by April 1st to:

NCHA Foundation
Attention: NYCHA Youth Scholarships
260 Bailey Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Or

Electronically by clicking submit button, or emailing to youth@nchacutting.com

National Youth Cutting Horse Association

Scholarship Application

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline for applications is April 1. Applications must be postmarked by the deadline date as recorded by the U.S. Postal Service, UPS, FedEx or other third party shipping entity. All application materials must be sent to the National Youth Cutting Horse Association, Scholarship Application, 260 Bailey Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76107 or electronically submitted to youth@nchacutting.com. A complete list of required support materials is located in the scholarship guidelines. Questions or inquiries may be directed to the NCHA Foundation at (817) 244-6188 x145 or youth@nchacutting.com. Please type (preferred) or print clearly.

Complete the application in the spaces provided.

Do not attach resumes. Additional documents will not be accepted for review.

Do not staple application materials, use paper or binder clips to secure items.

Do not place applications in binders, folders or protective sheet covers.

INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

APPLICATION INFORMATION

NCHA NUMBER: _____

FULL NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

PREFERRED NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ DOB: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CERTIFICATION BY APPLICANT AND AUTHORIZATION

I hereby certify the statements recorded in this application are true and accurate. I meet the individual scholarship(s) requirements set forth by the National Cutting Horse Association. I understand I must abide by all National Cutting Horse Association Scholarship Program Policies and Procedures in order to retain my scholarship.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

FINANCIAL AND ACADEMIC EXPENSES

All applicants are required to complete the financial section of this application. The following questions represent information requested from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Student Financial Assistance Estimator (SFAE). Your financial information is considered confidential and is not shared with individuals outside the selecting committee. **See scholarship guidelines for more information.**

Number of siblings: _____ Ages: _____

Number of siblings in College now: _____

Household Income

Please indicate which amount best describes family's total annual gross income:

PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S LATEST IRS TAX RETURN. **See Scholarship guidelines for more details.**

Less than \$25,000	\$25,001- \$50,000	\$50,001- \$75,000
\$75,001-\$100,000	\$100,001-\$125,000	\$125,001-\$150,000
\$150,001- or more		

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Applicants should complete the following academic information based on their current educational level. There are two categories; high school and college applicant.

Scholastic average(s) reported must be expressed either as a numerical percentage, such as 97/100%, and or as a ratio on a 4.0 scale.

In addition to completing this information, applicants must provide an official transcript. **See scholarship guidelines for more information.**

HIGH SCHOOL APPLICANTS

Name of High School: _____

City and State: _____

Average/GPA: _____ Anticipated graduation date: _____

SAT Score: _____ ACT Score: _____ Exam Dates: _____

College institution(s) to which you have applied for admission:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Proposed College Major and Minor: _____

Amount of expected annual college expenses: _____

Savings and cash available to begin college: _____

COLLEGE APPLICANTS

Classification: _____

Name of School: _____

Major and Minor Field(s) of Study: _____

Average/GPA: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Degree or Certification Anticipated: _____

Savings and cash available for college: _____

Current amount of academic debt: (if applicable): _____

ACADEMIC EXPENSES

Tuition and Fees: _____

Books: _____

Other, Specify: _____

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Please write within the box, do not attach other sheet.

List your most significant leadership activities in the National Cutting Horse Youth Association, school, church or community organizations. Please summarize.

List cutting activities and events you have participated in (including NYCHA events and activities and NCHA affiliate events and activities.) Please summarize.

List activities you participated in through school, church or the community, highlighting any volunteer activity. Please summarize.

List the most significant awards or recognition you have received through NYCHA, school, church or community organizations. Please summarize.

Briefly describe your career goals.

Briefly describe your most rewarding experience related to NYCHA or NCHA.

National Youth Cutting Horse Association

Scholarship Counselor's Reference Form

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1

This form is to be completed by the high school counselor, college advisor or professor. A teacher may assist with the sections for activities and attributes.

Instructions:

Counselor's References are required for all applicants of the NCHA Foundation Scholarship, and Dogwood Foundation Scholarship.

Please do not staple attachments to this form if mailing. This section and necessary attachments must be given to the student in a sealed envelope or uploaded if submitting electronically. Recommendation letters are not necessary and will not be judged. Attachments should be no longer than 8 ½ by 11 or 100 words if submitted electronically. It is not necessary to type the information, but hand writing must be legible. Please summarize your comments in the available section- do not attach additional pages for comments.

After completing the counselor's section, please include a seven (7) semester transcript with the following information and RETURN TO THE NCHA OFFICE or upload and submit electronically.

NCHA Foundation - Attention: Scholarship Applications
260 Bailey Ave
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Each of these sections will be taken into consideration by the selection committee in making the final selection for these scholarships. **Please answer truthfully in all as this reference form will be kept confidential and will only be viewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee. THE APPLICANT HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF INDIVIDUALS THAT SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE.**

Note to high school counselors:

We appreciate you taking the time to assist us in selecting the recipients of NYCHA Scholarships. Out of the applications we receive, we hope to select individuals who are likely to succeed in college, have a greater need for financial assistance and have demonstrated responsible behavior. You will be of considerable assistance in helping us make the selection by completing the counselor's form and responding to the questions truthfully. It is not necessary to answer the questions under "College Advisor or Professor Section".

Note to college advisors or professors:

As a College Advisor or Professor we appreciate the time to assist us in selection the recipients of NYCHA Scholarships. You will be of considerable assistance in helping us make the selection by completing the counselor's form and responding to the questions truthfully. It is not necessary to answer the questions under "High School Counselor Section".

Once the student has completed at least one semester of full time college coursework, high school GPA and national test scores will not be taken into consideration. This form will serve as a reference only for activities and attributes.

Incomplete applications and applications not postmarked by April 1 of the current year will be disqualified. Questions regarding the scholarship program or application process can be directed to the NCHA Foundation at (817) 244- 6188 x145 or youth@nchacutting.com.

National Youth Cutting Horse Association

Scholarship Counselor's Reference Form

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1

Applicant's Name: _____

GPA (Please adjust to a 4-point scale): _____

How well do you know this applicant?

Well known Slightly known Known by record Not known

Please Rate the applicant on a scale from 1 to 5 (circle only one response) on the following statements. NOTE: if you are not familiar with the applicant, you may allow another faculty member/teacher to rate the applicant on the follow statements. Please indicate at the bottom of the application, the name and title of the person who completes this section.

1 = Poor 2 = Fair 3 = Good 4 = Above Average 5 = Excellent

The applicant's achievements reflect his/her ability..... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's ability to set realistic and attainable goals.... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's respect for self and others..... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's ability to work well with others..... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's leadership abilities..... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's overall behavior..... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's commitment to school and/or community.... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's ability to follow through on tasks..... 1 2 3 4 5

The applicant's chances of success in college..... 1 2 3 4 5

Section Completed by (please print name): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Student's best attributes: Please consult with the applicant and circle the five (5) qualities that best identify the student as a person. (If you are not personally familiar with this applicant, please consult with him/her to complete the following.)

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| A. Quiet | G. Personable | M. Fast Learner | S. Dedicated | Y. Coordinated |
| B. Hard working | H. Likeable | N. Confident | T. Articulate | Z. Organized |
| C. Opinionated | I. Motivated | O. Artistic | U. Volunteer | AA. Over-achiever |
| D. Independent | J. Inquisitive | P. Involved | V. Religious | BB. Pleasant |
| E. Leader | K. Focused | Q. Goal Setter | W. Creative | |
| F. Outgoing | L. Intellectual | R. Optimistic | X. Spontaneous | |

High School Counselor Section:

Class rank _____ out of Class size _____

Is this student's GPA weighted for Honor's, AP or other advanced classes? Yes No

How would you classify this student's course curriculum? General Core College Prep AP

ACT Composite (Minimum 20) _____ ACT Percentile (National) _____

SAT Verbal _____ SAT Math _____ SAT Combined (Minimum of 950) _____

Student Activities: Please consult the applicant and circle the five (5) activities in which the student has been most involved with throughout high school.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01 Athletics | 10 Boy's/Girl's State | 19 Drill Team/
Cheerleader |
| 02 Drama | 11 DECA/ Distributive Education | 20 Key Club |
| 03 Student Council | 12 FHA | 21 Science Club |
| 04 Band/Choir | 13 FFA | 22 Debate Team |
| 05 Foreign Language Club | 14 Fellowship of Christian Athletes | 23 SADD |
| 06 Art | 15 Future Business Leaders of America | 24 4-H |
| 07 Volunteer Club | 16 National High School Rodeo | 25 Journalism |
| 08 Math Club | 17 Church/ Youth Group | 26 NYCHA |
| 09 Yearbook Staff | 18 National Honor Society | 27 Other |

Counselor: Please provide us with any additional information you believe may assist the scholarship committee in evaluating the applicant. (DO NOT ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES) Please write legibly or type your comments. In an effort to maintain applicant confidentiality, please refrain from using this applicant's name in this section.

College Advisor or Professor Section:

For college students only: Please provide us with any additional information pertaining to the career path of the applicant or any information that you feel will assist the committee in evaluating the applicant, please refrain from using the applicant's name in this section.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

National Youth Cutting Horse Association

Scholarship Reference Form

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1

Scholarship reference forms are to be completed by an NCHA Area Director or Affiliate Officer for applicants of the NCHA Foundation Scholarship and Dogwood Foundation Scholarship.

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

This section must be completed by an NCHA Area Director or Affiliate Officer

Name: _____

Title or Position: _____

How long have you known this applicant? _____

In what capacity?

Please indicate financial need of applicant

Remarks/additional comments

Signature: _____

NCHA # _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to: NCHA Foundation

By April 1

Attention: Scholarship Applications

260 Bailey Avenue Forth Worth, TX 76107