SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF RAIL SHIPPERS

2018 GEORGE J. ELKING JR. SCHOLARSHIP

The Southwest Association of Rail Shippers (SWARS) is one of five regional associations whose purpose is to provide an open forum for railroads, shippers, and other related parties to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest including service, car supply, scheduling, operating practices, and technology. SWARS' region includes the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California (from and including Fresno and points South), Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah, as well as the Republic of Mexico.

The George J. Elking Jr. Scholarship Award is dedicated to helping individuals with financial support throughout the SWARS region achieve their education and career goals. It is SWARS' hope recipients become active in the logistics and transportation fields, but wants to help deserving individuals studying in all fields of education and business.

Each year, SWARS provides scholarships to qualified applicants. Scholarships are administered at the sole discretion of SWARS and awards are conferred on a competitive basis. Funding is made available only for the scholastic year beginning in the fall semester following notification of a scholarship award.

Who is eligible?

Undergraduate college students in good standing and college bound high school seniors residing in the SWARS geographical territory. Students from the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California (from and including Fresno and points south thereof), Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and the Republic of Mexico are eligible. All applicants must be citizens of the U.S.A., Mexico, or Canada. Students must be enrolled to attend a college or university in the United States, Mexico, or Canada. The school must be fully accredited by its regional accrediting commission on higher education and the student must be registered in a course of study leading to a traditional baccalaureate degree. Scholarship recipients from prior years are eligible to receive multiple awards but must re-apply each year. A maximum of four (4) awards will be given to any individual.

How are recipients selected?

Scholarship recipients will be chosen from qualified students who meet the eligibility requirements and submit a completed application packet before the deadline. Scholarship recipients will be selected according to merit on a competitive basis and with regard to financial need. The scholarship committee will choose the recipients by evaluating each eligible student's self-description, academic performance, community involvement, employment history and financial status. Additional consideration will be given to those pursuing a degree program in a transportation related industry. Selected recipients will be featured on promotional materials at SWARS meetings and on our website. All selected recipients will be asked to submit a picture for this purpose.

What is the amount of the scholarship?

The scholarship stipend is a one-time disbursement typically ranging from $500 to $5,000 (USD) as determined by the scholarship committee. Funds will be disbursed directly to the college or university at which the recipient is enrolled.

Where do I send my application?

Online applications should be emailed to ddiulus@srmaterials.com**.**

Mailed applications can be sent to:

Dale Diulus
Salt River Materials Group
8800 E Chaparral Rd, Suite 155
Scottsdale, Arizona 85250

When is the application due?

Applications must be postmarked by **April 30**, of each year without exception**.**

What do I need to include with my scholarship application?

SWARS requires a completed application with the following information.

1. **Application** – Must be signed in blue or black ink.
2. **Academic Transcript** – Does not need to be certified; a clear copy is acceptable.
3. **ACT or SAT Test Results** - A copy is acceptable. (ACT or SAT test results are optional if the applicant is at least 21 years of age and has completed at least 45 hours of college credit).
4. **List of Extracurricular Activities** - Applicants should detail, on a separate sheet, their community involvement and extracurricular activities including awards and achievements (limited to one (1) page.
5. **Work History** - Applicants are required to submit their employment history. The ideal format is a list in table form indicating job start and stop dates, position, title, and company name. Resumes will be accepted for this section, but should not include any of the applicant's personally identifiable information such as name or address.
6. **Personal Statement** - Personal statements should be typed with a maximum length of 2 pages (double-spaced). Applicants are encouraged to be creative, but should detail career goals, particularly those relating to transportation, as well as any special circumstances that desire consideration. The awards committee reviews all statements anonymously, so please do not include any identifying information such as name or address.
7. **Academic Letter of Recommendation** - The academic letter of recommendation should be from a school counselor, teacher, or professor. The letter should be typed. The applicant's name should not appear in the body of the letter. Again, the awards committee reviews all statements anonymously, so please do not include any identifying information such as name or address.
8. **Personal Letter of Recommendation** - The personal letter of recommendation may be from any person of the applicant's choice who has a personal relationship with the applicant. Parents/guardians, grandparents, or other relatives are eligible to provide the personal letter of recommendation. The letter should be typed. The applicant's name should not appear in the body of the letter. Again, the awards committee reviews all statements anonymously, so please do not include any identifying information such as name or address.

PLEASE NOTE – IT IS THE RESPONSIBITY OF EACH APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE RECEIVES ALL REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS.

THE BEST WAY IS TO INCLUDE ALL PARTS OF THE APPLICATION IN ONE ENVELOPE OR IN ONE ONLINE DEPOSIT DEPENDING ON THE METHOD OF SUBMITTAL.

PLEASE NOTE - ONLY THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED. ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION WILL BE DISREGARDED

Who Can Answer Scholarship Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship including requests for exceptions, you may contact the SWARS Scholarship committee chair, Dale Diulus, at (480) 850-5757or email at **ddiulus@srmaterials.com.**