

Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation 2012 Scholarship Application
Important Instructions

Application Deadline is April 16th, 2012 (US postmarked or hand-delivered)

Please read these instructions carefully before completing the application!

Checklist for Required Information

Please complete all required sections of the application and make sure all signatures appear on the last page. If you need help with this process, contact LRSF at 527-3533 or email us at scholarship@metrocast.net.

Please make sure that you include the following attachments when you submit your application:

1. **Transcript of Grades:**
 - a. High School Seniors (and all students entering Freshman year in college) must include an official, signed transcript with most current Cumulative GPA
 - b. Enrolled College Students must provide a transcript, which includes the latest Cumulative GPA. If an official transcript is not available, a computer printout is acceptable if it clearly identifies the student and the college.

2. **Financial Data – You may choose either “A” or “B” below:**
 - A. **Student Aid Report (SAR)** – Include a copy of student’s 2012-2013 FAFSA Student Aid Report showing **EFC** (Expected Family Contribution) The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) web address is: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. You may contact the Federal Student Aid Center at (800-433-3243). Please make sure that you submit the SAR and not a copy of the FAFSA application. **MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE ALL PAGES OF THE SAR, INCLUDING THE FIRST PAGE SHOWING THE EFC.**

OR

 - B. **2011 Tax Returns or 2011 W2 forms.** Include copies of 2011 Tax Return(s), including all schedules for the student (and parent(s) or spouse if applicable). If filing a tax return is not required, include copies of all 2011 W2 forms from all places of employment for the student (and parent(s) or spouse if applicable). The “Assets, Expenses and Net Worth Data” and “Applicant Status” sections on the LRSF Application form **MUST** be completed if you choose option “B.”

3. **Short Essay** (typewritten if possible) describing specific educational goals. Please print your name on the top of the sheet.

4. **\$15.00** non-refundable application fee. This fee may be waived at the discretion of your principal or guidance counselor or you may contact LRSF directly.

5. **Applicant Appraisal form** to be completed by a school administrator, counselor, teacher, or employer, who knows you and your accomplishments. The appraiser should return this completed form to you in a sealed envelope or mail it directly to LRSF. This testimonial should enhance your overall application status, however, your application will not be disqualified if the Appraisal is not submitted.

Once all completed applications are received, they are compiled and the data is recorded and rated by our board of trustees. All of this must be completed within a very narrow time frame. Due to the increased volume of applicants, the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation will no longer process incomplete applications nor will we assume the responsibility to contact applicants to request missing information. Because of this and due to the fact that nearly half the applications we receive are incomplete, these new stricter guidelines have become necessary.

Your attentive completion of this application and collection of the supporting data is greatly appreciated. Regretfully, each year we find we must disqualify deserving applicants due to incomplete applications. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or if we can assist you in any way.

Screening Process

LRSF does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, or religion of the applicants. Three trustees screen each application on the following criteria: financial need (approximately 95% of our awards are primarily need based), as well as, extra-curricular activities, scholastic rating, and a brief theme. Each screening team of three trustees meets as a group to review their ratings and tally their individual scores. The entire board of trustees then meets to evaluate the screening teams' final ratings and determine which applicants will become recipients. For current high school graduates, we may also consult with your principals and/or guidance directors. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that each applicant will receive a scholarship. However, we do ensure – to the best of our ability – a conscientious, confidential and fair assessment of each application.

Financial Eligibility & Rating Process

We are often asked what income levels would qualify for scholarship assistance. Last year 83% of our applicants submitted copies of their Student Aid Report, which simplified our financial rating process. Based on the 2010 figures, we have established financial guidelines using the SAR results – or – the family income if a FAFSA has not been filed. *Please keep in mind that the following scale is only a guideline and that extenuating circumstances such as family illness, loss of employment, etc., are also taken into consideration.*

LRSF Financial Rating Average Expected Family Contribution – OR – Average Family Income

A = Greatest Financial Need	\$ 0-\$7499	\$30,000
B = Less Financial Need	\$7500-\$14,999	\$65,000
C = Minimal Financial Need	\$15000-\$22,99	\$93,000
D = No Apparent Financial Need	\$23,000	\$137,000

Numerical Rating

Your application is also given a numerical rating (from 1 to 5 – see below) based on the following three factors: **1) Academic Record** (high school or college transcript); **2) Extra-curricular Activities** (school, community sports, work, etc.); **3) An Essay** stating your educational and career goals. These numerical ratings are then added and compiled with the alphabetical financial rating:

	Sample:		
1 = Outstanding	Academic Record	=	2
2 = Very High	Extra-curricular	=	1
3 = Average	Essay	=	2
4 = Weak	Financial	=	A
5 = Very Poor	Final rating	=	A-5

Amount of Awards

In general, award amounts are determined by the rating given by the screening committee, based on the need of the applicant and the quality of the application, as explained above and on the availability of funds.

Recipient Notification & Disbursement of Funds

Most students, who are graduating from high school, will be notified at their school's award night or graduation ceremony. All recipients will be notified by the end of June. A College Certification and Request for Disbursement form will be provided to the recipients, which they must present to their college for completion. Upon receipt of the executed form, LRSF will forward a check to the college, to be applied to the student's account and disbursed as half for each semester. For awards of \$300.00 or less, students may send us validation (copy of receipts or on-line payment) that they have paid college-related expenses, such as tuition, books, supplies or equipment, and a check will be forwarded directly to them for reimbursement.

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If you wish to personally deliver your application, we are located upstairs in the DeCamp Center at 14 Country Club Road in Gilford. The DeCamp Center is usually open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Our office is on the second floor. If the door is locked, slide your application under the door. It will be safe. Only authorized personnel have a key to the office.

Questions ? ? ?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Telephone: 603-527-3533

E-Mail: scholarship@metrocast.net Web Site: www.lrscholarship.org

Contact Person: Joan M. Cormier, Executive Director

Mailing Address: PO Box 7312, Gilford NH 03247-7312

Location: DeCamp Financial Center, 14 Country Club Road, Gilford NH