



GROUP SCHOLARSHIP POLICY & GUIDELINES

New England Science & Sailing Foundation (NESS) is an ocean adventure nonprofit that provides STEM-based education programs, on and off the water, for students from all walks of life. NESS uses sailing, marine science, powerboating, and adventure sports as teaching platforms. We engage everyone in experiential learning that builds confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills vital to their futures. NESS's programs are guided by four core values:

Experiential Learning: Actively engaging students through doing, seeing, feeling, and inquiring
Personal Growth: Empowering students to do and accomplish things never before tried
Inclusiveness: Opening doors to all, regardless of means, intellectual or developmental ability
Stewardship: Fostering connections between students, their communities and the environment

To assure that NESS's programs are accessible to all, regardless of an individual's means, NESS provides scholarships for participants in its various programs who demonstrate financial need. NESS will make every reasonable effort to include those who want to participate in NESS's programs and have demonstrated financial need. Decisions regarding the granting of a scholarship will be made by the Scholarship Committee of NESS's Board of Directors in its sole discretion. The following policy guidelines will be followed by the Scholarship Committee:

For Group Scholarships:

1. To request a group scholarship for participation in NESS program during the Academic Year and/or for Summer Programs, the school or organization must communicate interest in scholarship funds.
2. The school or organization shall submit evidence of financial need. The school or organization must complete the NESS "Free or Reduced Lunch Verification Letter" or provide a letter verifying the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch signed by authorized administrator.
3. To be eligible for a full group scholarship, the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch must be greater than 80%. For schools or groups that have a percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch lower than 80%, a partial scholarship may be awarded. The maximum funds awarded would be equivalent to the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch and the school or organization would pay the remaining balance.
4. Group scholarship recipients may request scholarship funds for 3 years. After 3 years, schools or organizations that qualify and receive full or partial group scholarships may be awarded a maximum of 50% of the previous scholarship funds.

5. Group scholarship recipients are encouraged to share testimonials, thank you cards, or other means to demonstrate student experience at NESS.
6. Group scholarship recipients will be asked to complete NESS surveys to measure NESS outcomes.
7. Group scholarships will be approved by the Scholarship Committee in its sole discretion.