



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 Individual Scholarships:

1. To request a scholarship for participation in NESS program, the applicant or Parent/Guardian must complete the "Individual Scholarship Application". The Scholarship Committee may change the application and/or require additional information as needed. Scholarship applications should be submitted by May 1st.
2. Applicant or Parent/Guardian must provide evidence of financial need. The Scholarship Committee requires the most up to date federal income tax return of the parent/guardian or participant to verify financial need. If unable to provide federal income tax return, the Scholarship Committee may require other verification documents. If participant is a minor, they must be listed as a dependent on the submitted tax return. Tax return shall include all schedules. Once the tax return has been reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, the tax return will be returned to the applicant or Parent/Guardian. NESS will not retain a copy of the tax return.
3. Applicant or Parent/Guardian must provide evidence of financial need every year. The Scholarship Committee will consider renewing scholarships over multiple years. It is the general policy that the maximum time that a participant will receive aid is for four years. Preference will be given to participants who have received aid for less than four years.

4. The applicant must submit a "Student Intent Letter" explaining why he/she wants to take part in NESS program. Applicant should describe goals, reasons they want to take a particular program, and outcomes they might experience following participation.
5. Applicants are encouraged to visit the NESS facility and "Meet and Greet" with NESS staff after submitting application for an orientation prior to participation in program.
6. Participants must maintain 80% attendance of the program to remain eligible for the scholarship and must notify NESS if unable to attend for any reason.
7. Scholarship recipients and families are encouraged to volunteer, provide specialized support and/or support NESS community events.
8. At the end of the program, participants are encouraged to write a NESS "Great Story" of their experiences that includes challenges and successes of their time in NESS program. "Great Stories" should be submitted by September 1st.
9. Participants will be asked to complete NESS surveys.
10. Individual scholarships will be approved by the Scholarship Committee in its sole discretion.