



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 financial aid 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 April 1st for summer programs, by August 31st for fall programs, and by December 1st for spring programs. We encourage you to apply as soon as possible.
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. 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.
5. Individual scholarships will be approved by the Scholarship Committee in its sole discretion.

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. Certain schools or organizations will be eligible for scholarship for adaptive learning programs for students with learning differences. Please contact NESS for information on how to apply for these scholarships.
5. Group scholarships will be approved by the Scholarship Committee in its sole discretion.

Terms:

NESS will use reasonable business efforts to maintain the confidentiality of any and all personal financial information submitted with an application for scholarship. NESS will only use the financial information for the purpose of determining the eligibility for a scholarship. NESS will not disclose the financial information to any third party unless compelled by law to do so. The administration and award of scholarships are subject to NESS's Conflict-of-Interest Policy. A member of the Scholarship Committee shall disclose to NESS any relationship to an applicant for a scholarship.