



# MARGARET M. BROWN SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF THE FLORIDA SWIMS FOUNDATION 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## PURPOSE

The Florida Swimming Pool Association has established a Scholarship Fund to honor and further the education of persons selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee pursuant to the following criteria.

The award is presented by the Florida Swims Foundation. Funding for the program comes from the Florida Swimming Pool Association, the Florida Swims Foundation, FSPA members, and programs like the Scholarship Stride in memory of Brian Kelly. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to more than \$1,500 based on the applicant's academics, letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, research paper and essay.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Residency

The applicant must be a dependent of an owner or employee who, for two or more years, has been employed by a Florida Swimming Pool Association member company. The member company must be in good standing with annual dues paid in full for that branch/location if multiple locations exist. The applicant must be sponsored by that member company.

### Scholastic Standing - *First time applicants*

Applicants applying as entering freshman must have been accepted as a full-time student, as defined by that institution, at a regionally accredited college or community college and must have maintained a scholastic grade point average 3.0 or better for the two (2) years of high school study preceding their application. If a first-time applicant is currently enrolled in college, he/she must have carried a minimum of ten (10) hours credit or equivalent and have maintained a cumulative 3.0 grade point average.

### Scholastic Standing - *Applicants who have previously received a scholarship*

Applicants who have previously received a scholarship must have carried a minimum of ten (10) credit hours (or full time equivalent in post-graduate programs) and have maintained a cumulative 2.67 grade point average.

All applicants shall provide documentation of the institution's letter grade equivalency for any grade point averages submitted.

## APPLICATIONS

All applications and other required materials must be received at the Florida Swimming Pool Association office by the close of business on July 1, 2024 (not just postmarked) in order to be considered for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The items on the following page must be received in addition to the application in order to complete the application process and be considered for an award.

### **Letters of Recommendation**

First-time applicants and applicants who have not previously been awarded a scholarship, must furnish three (3) letters of recommendation. Letters should address the student's scholastic ability, character, and worthiness to receive a merit award and be from three of the following: (a) a professor or teacher; (b) an employer; (c) an advisor from a volunteer or extracurricular activity; (d) a coach from a sport in which you were an athlete, or (e) your FSPA sponsoring company.

Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to the Florida Swims Foundation by the author or in a sealed envelope signed by the author over the seal. All letters must be received by July 1, 2024 (not just postmarked) or the application is considered incomplete and will not be reviewed by the selection committee.

### **Transcripts and Test Scores**

Entering freshmen (high school graduate as of July 1): A certified copy of the student's transcript for the preceding two (2) years of high school and copies of the SAT / ACT or other generally accepted testing service scores.

College sophomore (freshman year completed as of July 1): A certified copy of the student's college spring semester grades must be included. If the applicant is not a previous recipient of this scholarship, also include a certified copy of high school transcript and copies of the student's SAT / ACT or other generally accepted testing service scores.

All others: A certified copy of the student's college transcript(s), including spring semester grades, must be included.

Please make a request with your institution to have an official transcript sent directly to the Florida Swims Foundation by mail or e-mail (valerie@fspa.com). Transcripts must be received no later than July 1, 2024 (not just postmarked) or the application is considered incomplete and will not be reviewed by the selection committee.

### **Research Paper**

All first-time applicants and applicants who have not previously been awarded a scholarship, shall complete a research paper on "The Purpose of a Trade Association". The paper must be submitted in typed form and double spaced. See additional requirements on the topic list on page 6.

The research paper is optional for previous scholarship award recipients. Applicants who do not submit a research paper will be limited to an award of less than \$1,000. To be considered for an award greater than \$1,000, the applicant must complete the research paper and have a minimum GPA of 2.8. Please note: Submitting a research paper does not guarantee scholarship award will exceed \$1,000. Please see the approved topic list for previous recipient research papers and requirements on page 6.

### **Brief Essay (250-300 words)**

All applicants must write a brief essay which must be submitted in typed form and double spaced.

Essay Topic: Over the next five to seven years, what are your goals? Discuss personal, volunteer/community engagement, educational, and professional goals.

## **AWARDS**

The Scholarship Selection Committee shall base its awards upon scholastic achievement, character and worthiness.

Awards shall be transmitted to the academic institution for the fall semester of study. Failure to request the funds within 45 days of the announcement of the awards may be grounds for forfeiture of the award. Any excess award funds must be returned to the Florida Swims Foundation within the year received. Awards will not be transmitted until the sponsor company has renewed their membership for 2024-2025.

The Scholarship Selection Committee may require first-time award recipient to attend a designated Florida Swimming Pool Association Board of Directors meeting to receive his or her award.

Applicant Information

Full Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (to send information relating to scholarship application): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ *This # should be the best way to reach your parent / guardian.*

**Applicant Checklist for Submission**

**First-Time Applicants /  
No previous award received**

- Application complete (pages 3-5)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of recommendation
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter of recommendation
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Letter of recommendation
- Transcript – High School
- Transcript – College (including Spring 2024 grades)
- Standardized test scores
- Research paper on trade association (print and electronic version)\*
- Essay
- Membership of sponsor confirmed
- Cumulative GPA 3.0 average or higher

**Previous Scholarship Recipient  
Applicants**

- Application complete (pages 3-5)
- Transcript – College (including Spring 2024 grades)
- Essay
- Research paper - OPTIONAL (print and electronic version)\*
- Membership of sponsor confirmed
- Cumulative GPA 2.67 average or higher

**All materials must be received (not postmarked)  
in the FSPA office by  
5:00 p.m. on July 1, 2024.**

\*Electronic versions of papers can be emailed to [valerie@FSPA.com](mailto:valerie@FSPA.com)

# 2024 MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (page 2 of 3)



Full Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

## Education Information

High School Graduating Class of 2023:

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank in Class: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

SAT/ACT: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ GPA (weighted): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College planning to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges accepted to but not attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Paper Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

College Students:

Name of College: (Undergraduate) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: (Anticipated) \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College: (Graduate) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: (Anticipated) \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Paper Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sponsor Information

Sponsoring FSPA Member Company : \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a dependent of:  Owner  Employee (Check one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years employed by this company? \_\_\_\_\_

What involvement does your sponsor have with FSPA on a local and / or state level?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 2024 MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (page 3 of 3)

Additional Information about Applicant (Please feel free to attach supplemental information)

In what activities / clubs / sports have you participated: (List activity and year participated)

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Please list all charity / volunteer work and paid employment, including the number of hours per week.

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Reasons for applying for this award:

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What course of study / career path do you intend to follow:

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Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN BY July 1, 2024  
Florida Swimming Pool Association  
Attn: Scholarship Selection Committee  
2555 Porter Lake Drive, Suite 106  
Sarasota, FL 34240-7865

**All materials must be received (not just postmarked) in the FSPA office by 5:00 p.m. on July 1.**

# 2024 RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

Applicants may answer any or all parts of the question in their research paper.  
Papers will be reviewed based on quality, length and content.

## ALL FIRST TIME APPLICANTS and APPLICANTS WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARDED A FSPA SCHOLARSHIP (no matter the level of study)

1. What is the purpose of a trade association and their role in American business? If you were a new business owner and joined the FSPA, what membership benefits would most appeal to you and why? How would you integrate those benefits into your daily operations, and to what positive outcomes? Provide a strategy to communicate the benefits of membership in a trade association.

## PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

1. Constant communication and information is in high demand! As a pool builder in a business where scheduling workers and subcontractors is based on many factors, including weather delays, how would you effectively and efficiently keep customers informed?
2. Equipment theft from job sites is a concern to many pool builders, with losses in the tens of thousands of dollars. What strategies would you use to prevent theft? What technological innovations could be used?
3. The Florida Swims Foundation needs 3,000 pre-orders of the Swim for Life specialty license plate by October 1 to secure a new avenue of annual funds for swim lessons. With the deadline quickly approaching, how would you promote the plate and secure enough pre-orders? Who are your target audiences?

## ALL PAPERS

- PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED - Submit in Microsoft Word on a USB drive or by e-mail.
- MINIMUM OF FIVE (5) REFERENCES, INCLUDING ONE PRIMARY SOURCE (LIVE INTERVIEW).
- MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) INTERNET REFERENCES
- MUST BE BETWEEN 700 - 1,500 WORDS. PAPERS WILL BE REVIEWED FOR CONTENT AND QUALITY.
- BIBLIOGRAPHY MUST BE INCLUDED

RETURN BY July 1, 2024  
Florida Swimming Pool Association  
Attn: Scholarship Selection Committee  
2555 Porter Lake Drive, Suite 106  
Sarasota, FL 34240-7865

Questions? Call:  
Ph: (941) 952-9293  
e-mail documents to [Valerie@FSPA.com](mailto:Valerie@FSPA.com)

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