



MARGARET M. BROWN SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF THE FLORIDA SWIMS FOUNDATION 2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

PURPOSE

The Florida Swimming Pool Association, through Florida Swims Foundation, 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 FSPA state office, or a FSPA Chapter. 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, 2025 (not just postmarked) in order to be considered for the 2025-2026 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 (via the online application system, or directly emailed to valerie@fspa.com or in a sealed envelope signed by the author over the seal). All letters must be received by July 1, 2025 (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): Upload a 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): Upload a copy of the student's college transcripts, 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 copy of the student's college transcript(s), including spring semester grades, must be uploaded.

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. It will be uploaded into the online application. 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 typed in online application.

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 2025-2026.

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.

<p>All materials must be received in the FSPA office by 5:00 p.m. on July 1, 2025.</p>

2025 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. Maintaining a strong workforce is a cornerstone of a successful business. As companies see an increase in business and a decrease in available workforce, how can they overcome staffing challenges? What can FSPA do to be part of a solution to workforce shortages?
2. What are the current trends in homeowners creating a "backyard environment" and how are these trends affecting the pool and spa industry in Florida? Explore ways which the FSPA can assist members in fulfilling expectations and needs of their clients regarding this trend.
3. The Florida Swims Foundation provides swim lessons for children all across Florida. How can FSPA and the Foundation promote water safety awareness and the importance of swim lessons to parents? More specifically, how can FSPA and the Foundation educate new parents with children not yet old enough to be in the school system?

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

Applicant Checklist for Submission

First-Time Applicants / No previous award received

- ☐ Application complete
- ☐ 1st Letter of recommendation
- ☐ 2nd Letter of recommendation
- ☐ 3rd Letter of recommendation
- ☐ Transcript – High School
- ☐ Transcript – College (including Spring 2025 grades)
- ☐ Standardized test scores
- ☐ Research paper on trade association
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Membership of sponsor confirmed
- ☐ Cumulative GPA 3.0 average or higher

Previous Scholarship Recipient Applicants

- ☐ Application complete
- ☐ Transcript – College (including Spring 2025 grades)
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Research paper - OPTIONAL
- ☐ Membership of sponsor confirmed
- ☐ Cumulative GPA 2.67 average or higher

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