

The New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

THE NOHMF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, the New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation (“NOHMF”), a non-profit community organization, awards *high school* scholarships to talented Hispanic students at local schools participating in the NOHMF Scholarship Program. NOHMF Scholarships are one-year scholarships given directly to participating schools to help individual Hispanic students who have financial need and a strong academic record. Each qualified school in the program recommends a list of candidates to the NOHMF Scholarship Committee. Since funding for the program is limited, schools rank their scholarship candidates according to their criteria and make recommendations using the NOHMF criteria as a guide. The NOHMF Scholarship Committee then reviews the recommendations and approves or disapproves them, based on the availability of funds and other criteria.

CANDIDATE CRITERIA

Hispanic students from participating schools are eligible to be considered for the NOHMF Scholarships if they meet *all* of the following criteria: (Only candidates recommended by their schools will be eligible.)

- (1) Academic Excellence.** The candidate must have a strong academic record and a minimum 3.0 grade point average.
- (2) Hispanic Resident of Louisiana.** The candidate must be a Hispanic resident of the State of Louisiana.
- (3) Hispanic Interests and Attributes.** The candidate must be interested and involved in Hispanic culture and affairs, as evidenced by his or her proficiency in the Spanish language, previous and current enrollment in Hispanic related academic subjects, and the like.
- (4) Financial Need.** The candidate must have financial need. The assets and income of the student’s family or guardian will be taken into account.
- (5) No Close Family Ties to NOHMF.** Candidates may not be the children or stepchildren of current or former Board members, employees or contract workers of the NOHMF;

provided, however, that an individual shall not be considered a former Board member, employee or contract worker of the NOHHF for the purpose of this criterion if his/her tenure or employment period, as the case may be, terminated at least one year prior to the school year for which the candidate is otherwise eligible.

If a candidate meets *all* the above criteria, the candidate may be considered for the NOHHF scholarship based on other factors, including but not limited to (and in no particular order):

- Grade point average
- Class standing
- Extracurricular activities
- Honors and Awards, with emphasis on Spanish language and literature
- Ranking in school list
- Depth of financial need
- Community service involvement
- Written statements from schools
- Whether the candidate is a prior recipient of a NOHHF Scholarship

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

In order to participate in the NOHHF Scholarship Program, New Orleans area high schools must show the following:

- (1) **Strong Academics.** Qualifying schools must have a reputation for strong academics, as evidenced by the SAT scores attained by their students, the percentage of graduating seniors who attend college, and the like.
- (2) **Commitment to Hispanic Students.** Qualifying schools must have made a commitment to recruiting, enrolling and keeping Hispanic students enrolled, and must demonstrate a desire to increase their enrollment.
- (3) **Commitment to Hispanic Studies.** Qualifying schools must have made a commitment to teach the Spanish language (at two or more levels) and include other Hispanic related subjects in their curriculum.
- (4) **Matching Funds Commitment.** The school must match the NOHHF Scholarship funds through direct financial aid from the school, equivalent work-study programs, or other sources or arrangements.

Area high schools involved in the NOHHF Scholarship program submit a list of candidates to the NOHHF Scholarship Committee, along with a copy of each candidate's transcript. Participating schools rank the candidates and include a written statement detailing why the school nominated each candidate for the scholarship. Previous NOHHF Scholars who have maintained a strong

academic record and who are still in financial need will be given priority over first-time nominees, and should be reflected as such in the rankings submitted by the schools to the NOHMF Scholarship Committee.

NOHMF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TIMELINE

- May The NOHMF selects the schools that will participate in the upcoming academic year's NOHMF Scholarship Program.
- July Participating schools submit lists of recommended candidates. Schools must include a transcript and a statement of recommendation for each candidate.
- AugustBased on the amount of financial resources available for scholarships and other applicable criteria, the NOHMF reviews the lists of candidates submitted and makes scholarship decisions.
- September The NOHMF notifies participating schools of which candidates have been awarded NOHMF Scholarships.
- October The scholarship funds are disbursed to the participating schools.
- March The NOHMF holds an awards reception for the NOHMF Scholars, where
(following year) representatives from participating schools introduce each of the scholars.

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