

<b>FORT SMITH BOYS &amp; GIRLS CLUB</b> <b>COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION</b>
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**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

For New Applicants:

1. Must have been a member or a volunteer of the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club for a minimum of two years
2. Applicants ages 18 or younger must have a current FSBGC membership card
3. Must be a graduating high school senior or a high school graduate, and rank in the top 60% of their graduating class.
4. Must have a GPA of 2.5 or better

For Renew (continuing) applicants:

1. Must take at least 12 credit hours per semester
2. Must maintain a 2.5 GPA.

For all applicants:

1. Applications must be 100% complete
2. Financial data as requested must accompany application
3. Those having greater financial need, and those with added volunteer service will be given higher consideration. Applicants with a combined family income over \$150,000 are not eligible.

**WHERE CAN I GET AN APPLICATION?**

Application forms may be picked up from any of the four Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club locations, the FSBGC Administration Office (in the Jeffrey Unit) any time during the months of January through March, and on our website ([www.fsbgc.org](http://www.fsbgc.org)). The deadline for submitting applications is April 1<sup>st</sup> of any year. The judging process takes place approximately the middle of May.

**HOW ARE THE APPLICANTS SCREENED?**

A scholarship committee comprised of FSBGC board members will review transcripts, consider letters of recommendations, and interview applicants. The main areas of consideration include: 1) need; 2) boys & girls club participation/volunteerism; and 3) academic achievement. Applicants with greater financial need, and those with added volunteer service will be given higher consideration. *All information is kept confidential within the Scholarship Program, and not subject to public scrutiny.*

**HOW MUCH ARE THE SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH?**

Individual awards will average at least \$1,000 per year. For the 2009 – 2010 semesters, over \$34,000 was awarded through the local scholarship program. State “Youth of the Year” recipients also receive scholarship funds through Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The Phillips 66 Boys & Girls Club of America Engineering Scholarship Program includes costs for tuition, room, board, books and fees for up to four years for selected recipients.

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**HOW MANY YOUNGSTERS USUALLY APPLY?**

The total number of applications received from year to year range from 15 to 40.

**HOW ARE THE SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED?**

The college scholarship program was created by Jim and June Alexander. The Alexanders set up a fund in 1985 that would create money to be distributed each year to deserving Boys and Girls Club members. Several board members of the FSBGC also contributed to the college scholarship fund, including: the late Johnny M. Smith, Robert Meek, Jim Hanna, Robert Miller and the late Okla Homer Smith. Additionally, the FSBGC Alumni & Friends makes an annual contribution. Many people have requested a memorial contribution be applied to the scholarship program in memory of their loved one, such as Mr. & Mrs. Robert Plunkett in memory of their grandsons, Reid and Grant Plunkett. In 1977, Dale & Carolyn Jenkins established a memorial scholarship for their son Steven D. Jenkins. Friends and family began a memorial scholarship in 2000 for Vic Forsgren, who served several years as a FSBGC board member, as well as being an avid volunteer coach, and seeing his children grow up in the Club. The Bob Dills Memorial Scholarship was established in 2001. In 2002, scholarships in memory of Robert A. Young IV and Bobby Needham, Sr. were established. Memorial scholarships of 2006 were in memory of Sean Amos, Jack & Ruth Liggett, and Wade Walker.

**HOW IS THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PAID?**

Scholarships are awarded for a complete academic year - (Fall semester & Spring semester). The award is divided in half, and paid at each of the two (2) semesters in a particular academic year. As long as the recipient adheres to the rules governing these scholarships, payment will be made as soon as all paperwork from the recipient is received into the FSBGC office for processing. If an award recipient needs to pay the college before FSBGC can submit payment, the student must seek refund from the college. This could happen if the student does not supply FSBGC with the required documents in a timely manner.

**IF I RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP, CAN IT BE CONTINUED?**

Scholarships are awarded for two semesters at a time (a complete academic year) – Fall of one year, and Spring of the following year. Scholarships can be renewed to a maximum of four years. A student must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA, and carry at least 12 credit hours per semester. Each succeeding semester, a student must submit official transcripts of: 1) final grades for the previous semester, and 2) a schedule of courses for the upcoming semester. To continue the scholarship into the next academic year (two semesters), the student must also submit a completed renewal application.

**WHAT HAPPENS TO MY SCHOLARSHIP IF I CAN'T FINISH A SEMESTER?**

Circumstances may prevent a student from attending or completing a semester. Students must submit a complete explanation of such circumstances, its potential outcome, and possibility of continuing their education, in writing, to the Scholarship Committee as soon as such circumstances arise. Such cases are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, and different arrangements may be made to help the student. Send such writings to: Attn: Jerry Glidewell at the FSBGC Administration office address.

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**DO YOU HAVE OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT FSBGC?**

Club members can receive free educational guidance through the “Power Hour” after-school homework assistance classes at each Unit, or through peer guidance in the “Teen Services” program. Daily activities are designed to help needy youngsters in elementary and junior high grades with homework assistance and study skills. The Club conducts the “Lean-On-Me Mentoring” program, which allows volunteers to mentor needy youngsters one-on-one. Similar to ‘Big Brothers / Big Sisters’, the program is designed to give needy members positive reinforcement and guidance.