What is the STARR Charitable Foundation Scholarship?

This scholarship will pay all regular costs for eight (8) semesters at Michigan State University, the nation’s premier Land Grant University. Benefits include tuition, fees, books, room, board, and incidental expenses as defined by the University, beginning with fall semester of each year.

An anonymous private donor has established the STARR Charitable Foundation Scholarship to provide a unique education opportunity for multiple students from the State of Wyoming or Michigan’s upper peninsula. These are students whose ability to secure a college education may be limited by their family resources.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION?

To qualify for the scholarship, students must:

1. Demonstrate academic interest and achievement by attaining grade point averages of 3.0 or better in an academic program rich in core subjects. Students with higher academic averages will not be given preference until the following personal traits have been demonstrated.

2. Demonstrate by their record of performance and through recommendations that they are truly ambitious, talented, and enthusiastic in their academic and extracurricular activities.

3. Exhibit leadership traits, to be honed by their academic studies, that are predictive of their capacity to emerge as tomorrow’s leaders — leaders in their communities, businesses and professions.

4. Demonstrate extraordinary skills, talents, curiosity to learn and grow, good moral character and unique characteristics that distinguish them from their peers.

5. Manifest ethical behavior and good character at all times and in all circumstances.

HOW DO I APPLY?

To be considered for this scholarship, students must:

1. Apply for, and be eligible for, admission to Michigan State University as soon as possible, no later than November 1, 2014 of the year prior to entry to MSU. Admission to the University is a prerequisite for any scholarship award. Apply online at www.beaspartan.msu.edu. All freshman applicants are required to submit either the SAT reasoning test or the ACT with the writing assessment.

2. Submit the attached STARR Charitable Foundation Scholarship application and required essays to Office of Admissions, Hannah Administration Building, 426 Auditorium Road, Room 250, East Lansing, MI 48824-2604 on or before November 1, 2014, prior to the year of entry to MSU. In addition to the application form, four short essays are required. The topics are outlined in this brochure.

3. Arrange for three (3) letters of recommendation from persons who are not related to you and who know you well enough to address how you exemplify the criteria for the award. The application packet includes three (3) recommendation information sheets that describe these criteria and a confidentiality sign-off. The deadline is November 1, 2014.
**Required Essays**

The STARR Charitable Foundation Scholarship review panel will focus upon a variety of qualities and characteristics to select the nominees for the award. Refer to the section on criteria in this brochure for more details.

In order to assist the review panel in identifying these qualities, each candidate is expected to prepare a short essay for each of the numbered items below. These short essays are in addition to the personal statement that was submitted with the MSU admissions application. Please limit your response to each item to 250 words.

**Required essay topics:**

1. Describe a meaningful educational experience, either related to a course or an extracurricular activity, and discuss how this experience exemplifies your ambition and enthusiasm for learning.

2. Discuss a leadership position you held or currently hold. What did you uniquely bring to your role as a leader? What did you learn about yourself and others?

3. Describe a skill or talent that uniquely characterizes you. Provide an example of how you used this ability to positively impact others.

4. Describe a situation in which you faced an ethical dilemma. What did you do and how did it affect you and/or others? What, if anything, would you have done differently?

**Letters of Recommendation**

Three letters of recommendation must be submitted in support of your application. These letters must be from teachers, counselors, employers, or others who know you. They cannot be from anyone who is related to you. These letters must be submitted by November 1, 2014 of the year prior to entry to MSU. Enclosed with this application are three recommendation information sheets. The sheets describe the expected content of the letters of recommendation and the deadline for submission. Please give these to the three individuals you select. Be sure to sign the confidentiality statement, whether or not you intend to waive your right to review the letters.

All application materials must be postmarked by November 1, 2014 to:

Office of Admissions
Hannah Administration Building
426 Auditorium Road, Room 250
East Lansing, MI 48824-2604

If you have questions, Wyoming students may contact Ben Brown at (517) 432-9815 or brownb42@msu.edu. Students in Michigan's upper peninsula should contact Tania Kurzawa at (906) 360-2196 or kurzawa@msu.edu.

The decision of the STARR Charitable Foundation selection of award recipients will be final.

**Deadlines:**

- ACT OR SAT TEST SCORES SUBMITTED TO MSU DIRECTLY FROM THE TESTING AGENCY – November 1, 2014
- APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION – November 1, 2014
- SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – November 1, 2014
- RECOMMENDATIONS – November 1, 2014