



# **SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF RAIL SHIPPERS**

## **2024 GEORGE J. ELKING JR. SCHOLARSHIP**

The Southwest Association of Rail Shippers (SWARS) is one of five regional associations whose purpose is to provide an open forum for railroads, shippers, and other related parties to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest including service, car supply, scheduling, operating practices, and technology. SWARS' region includes the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California (from and including Fresno and points South), Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah, as well as the Republic of Mexico.

The George J. Elking Jr. Scholarship Award is dedicated to helping individuals throughout the SWARS region with financial support to achieve their education and career goals. It is SWARS' hope recipients become active in the logistics and transportation fields but wants to help deserving individuals studying in all fields of education and business.

Each year, SWARS provides scholarships to qualified applicants. Scholarships are administered at the sole discretion of SWARS and awards are conferred on a competitive basis. Funding is made available only for the scholastic year beginning in the fall semester following notification of a scholarship award.

### **Who is eligible?**

Undergraduate college students in good standing and college bound high school seniors residing in the SWARS geographical territory. Students from the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Southern California (from and including Fresno and points south thereof), Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and the Republic of Mexico are eligible. **The student MUST reside in the SWARS region. The address on the student's transcript will determine eligibility.** All applicants must be citizens of the U.S.A., Mexico, or Canada. Students must be enrolled to attend a college or university in the United States, Mexico, or Canada. The school must be fully accredited by its regional accrediting commission on higher education and the student must be registered in a course of study leading to a traditional baccalaureate degree. Scholarship recipients from prior years are eligible to receive multiple awards but must re-apply each year. A maximum of four (4) awards will be given to any individual.

### **How are recipients selected?**

Scholarship recipients will be chosen from qualified students who meet the eligibility requirements and submit a completed application packet before the deadline. Scholarship recipients will be selected according to merit on a competitive basis and with regard to financial need. The scholarship committee will choose the recipients by evaluating each eligible student's self-description, academic performance, community involvement, employment history and financial status. Additional consideration will be given to those pursuing a degree program in a transportation related industry, and those who have some connection to SWARS. Selected recipients will be featured on promotional materials at SWARS meetings and on our website. All selected recipients will be asked to submit a picture for this purpose.

## What is the amount of the scholarship?

The scholarship stipend is a one-time disbursement typically \$1,000 (USD) or more as determined by the scholarship committee. Funds will be disbursed directly to the college or university at which the recipient is enrolled.

## Where do I send my application?

**All applications MUST be submitted online.**

## When is the application due?

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on **April 15, 2024** without exception.

## What do I need to include with my scholarship application?

SWARS requires a completed application with the following information.

1. **Academic Transcript** – Does not need to be certified; a clear copy is acceptable.
2. **ACT or SAT Test Results** - For 2024, ACT/SAT scores are OPTIONAL.
3. **List of Extracurricular Activities** - Applicants should detail, on a separate sheet, their community involvement and extracurricular activities including awards and achievements (limited to 1 page.)
4. **Work History** - Applicants are required to submit their employment history. The ideal format is a list in table form indicating job start and stop dates, position, title, and company name. Resumes will be accepted but should not include any of the applicant's personally identifiable information such as name or address.
5. **Personal Statement** – 2024 Topic: ***What are the best words of advice you ever received? Who shared them, and how have you applied them to your own life?*** Any special circumstances which you wish considered should be incorporated. Personal statements should be typed with a maximum length of 2 pages (double-spaced), be relevant to the essay topic, and expressed clearly with proper grammar and punctuation. The awards committee reviews all statements anonymously, so please DO NOT include any identifying information such as name or address.
6. **Academic Letter of Recommendation** - The academic letter of recommendation should be from a school counselor, teacher, or professor. ***The letter writer must email the recommendation directly to the SWARS Scholarship Committee at SWARSscholarship@gmail.com.*** The letter should be typed. The applicant's name should not appear in the body of the letter. Again, the awards committee reviews all statements anonymously, so please do not include any identifying information such as name or address.
7. **Personal Letter of Recommendation** - The personal letter of recommendation should be from someone who has a personal relationship with the applicant. **Parents/guardians, grandparents, or other relatives ARE NOT ELIGIBLE** to provide the personal letter of recommendation. ***The letter writer must email the recommendation directly to the SWARS Scholarship Committee at SWARSscholarship@gmail.com.*** The letter should be typed. The applicant's name should not appear in the body of the letter. Again, the awards committee reviews all statements anonymously, so please do not include any identifying information such as name or address.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE RECEIVES ALL REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS.**

**APPLICANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT PERSONAL INFORMATION IS REMOVED FROM ALL DOCUMENTS EXCEPT THE TRANSCRIPT AND ACT/SAT SCOREs IF SUBMITTED.**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE - ONLY THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED. ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION WILL BE DISREGARDED\*\***

**Who Can Answer Scholarship Questions?**

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship including requests for exceptions, you may contact the SWARS Scholarship committee chair, Lory Whitley, at [SWARSscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:SWARSscholarship@gmail.com).