



SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

APPROVED – JANUARY 2012

1. Scholarships Awarded: Three scholarships will be funded on an annual basis from the Wisconsin Custom Operators (WCO) general fund. Two scholarships will be awarded to applicants who plan to enter post-secondary education as freshman the next scholastic year. The remaining scholarship will be awarded to a student continuing their post-secondary education the next scholastic year.
2. Scholarship Amount: The total amount of scholarships funded by the WCO General Fund will be determined by the WCO Board prior to the posting the application in the fall. The total funds will be split equally between the three recipients. The scholarship amount for 2012 will be \$1500.
3. Selection Criteria: Selection will be based on leadership and civic activities, high school or post-secondary scholastic achievement, work and volunteer activities specifically related to production agriculture, and an essay that provides a vision for the applicant's educational and vocational future. Preference will be given to students who have not previously received a WCO Scholarship.
4. Eligibility:
 - a. All applicants must have direct family ties to a current member of WCO (excluding corporate members) or to an employee of a WCO member.
 - b. An application from a family member of an employee must supply a letter or e-mail from the WCO member to confirm employment with the WCO member.
 - c. Applications would also be considered if the applicant was directly related (son or daughter) to a deceased WCO member. Deceased member must have been a Regular Member within the last two years of their death for the application to be considered.
 - d. Applicants who are planning to further their education at either a university or technical school are eligible.
5. Application Process: Applicants must complete the Scholarship Application form that is found on the WCO web site (www.wiscustomoperators.org).

6. Timing: Applications must be submitted to the Chair of the WCO Scholarship Committee and are due on the April 1st. The WCO Scholarship Committee will be comprised of three Board members. The Committee will review applicants in April or May and contact the scholarship recipients by June 1st.
7. Award Presentation: The award will be given to the recipients at the annual WCO meeting in January.
8. Fund Disbursement: Funds will be made available at the end of the fall semester. Winners must provide a transcript to the Chair of the Scholarship Committee showing that they have attained a 2.5 GPA (on a 4.00 scale) during that semester. The WCO Board Treasurer will mail a check to the student if this criterion is met.

Applicants must provide the following information to WCO Scholarship Committee along with the signed application Cover Page.

Scholastic Achievement:

Please provide official documentation concerning your high school grade point average, ACT or SAT exam scores and class rank. If your high school does not provide class rank data, then a letter from appropriate high school official must be provided. These data must be provided by a high school official and sent to the WCO Secretary directly by that official. The data should be accompanied by a letter from the official on school letterhead.

Academic and Civic Involvement and Leadership:

Provide a chronological list of activities demonstrating your level of involvement and leadership during your high school career. You should include any awards or honors in this section. Please emphasize activities related to production agriculture. Please limit this section of the application to no more than two pages, single spaced.

Essay:

Please write a one page essay (double-space, 12 point font) to help the Selection Committee understand your future goals and how your educational plans will help these goals become a reality.