



## SNA SCHOLARSHIP FAQs



Below are a number of responses provided by  
VADM Lee Gunn, USN (Ret)  
the Chairman of the Scholarship Selection Committee.

### **How much is the scholarship worth per year, and how long can an individual receive that financial aid?**

Each individual SNA award is for \$2,000 per year for a total of \$8,000 per person payable in increments of \$2,000 per year for a total of 4 years as long as the candidate maintains a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and therefore meets the eligibility requirements for renewal.

### **How many scholarship recipients are selected each year?**

Over the years the SNA Scholarship Program has grown not only in the amount provided to each individual applicant but also the number awarded each year. The number of new awardees is determined by the number of renewal applicants. I am proud to say that for the 2011/2012 school year we accepted 20 new applicants and maintained 40 total individual scholarships which represents an expenditure of over \$120,000 this year. Since 2002 we have awarded over \$800,000.

### **What are the eligibility requirements?**

To be eligible the candidate must be a child, stepchild, ward or spouse of a SNA member and the member must be in at least their second consecutive year of membership.

Qualified members must have served for a minimum of 3 years on surface ships of the US Navy and be a Surface Warfare Officer or Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. Alternatively the qualified member can be a Coast Guardsman, Officer or Enlisted, with a permanent Cutterman Pin. Surface ships include carriers, combatants, amphibious, service force, mine force, tenders and US Coast Guard cutters of all classes. The three year service need not be consecutive but must have been served on active duty. For those children or spouses of eligible candidates who died on active duty while serving in a surface ship or cutter there is no minimum service period.

### **What does a recipient need to do to continue receiving the scholarship?**

To be eligible for renewal the applicant must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and must continue to be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or postgraduate institution. The candidate must also meet all the renewal deadlines.

### **Why does SNA offer these scholarships?**

VADM Robert L. Walters Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory of the first president of the Association and to recognize worthy members or dependents of members of the Surface Navy Association and assist them in attaining their educational goals. A SNA Scholar receives an academic scholarship awarded for demonstrated leadership, community service, academic achievement and a commitment to pursuing higher educational objectives. We believe this is a valuable benefit for our members and possibly to the future of our Navy.

**How far ahead should a candidate submit an application?**

We always see a rush of applications at the last minute! The deadline for submission is typically March 1 of any given year and while we don't mind receiving portions of the package at different times we do require that the completed package be submitted to us by that date. A complete package contains the completed application form, a brief essay on a topic determined by the Scholarship Committee, academic scores to include GPA and SAT/ACT results, a listing of any extra curricular activities, community service activities and any academic honors or positions of leadership that the applicant holds. We also require three letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors or other persons of influence in the applicant's life. These typically take the longest to get so we strongly encourage all applicants to start the process early enough to allow for these documents to be submitted by the deadline.

**How would you characterize the quality of the candidates who have been awarded scholarships in recent years?**

Members of the selection committee are always amazed at the quality of the candidates that apply for these scholarships. For example the average GPA for those applying in 2011 was 3.81 and of those selected, the average was 4.27. For 2010 it was similar with an average of 3.66 and 3.93 for those selected.

The whole process is a 'blind' selection which means that at no time during the review and selection process do members of the committee know the names of any of the applicants. All material provided is carefully redacted to take out all references that would key the committee member into the identity of the applicant. It is only after the selection process is finished and there are no outstanding issues on applicants that the identities are disclosed. As the selections are made prior to the end of the academic year, typically a couple of alternates are also selected. These candidates become eligible should any of the renewing applicants fail to meet the criteria. We do this as we like to maintain the maximum number of scholarships possible at all times.

**What can the candidate do with the money? Are there restrictions?**

Once we have been notified by the selected scholar that he/she has determined which school they will attend, the payment is made out to the school and the individual. It is then between the school finance office and the applicant exactly what the money is used for. Surface Navy Association scholarships are for studies in an accredited undergraduate or postgraduate institution. If a candidate is selected to a military academy he or she is eligible for the scholarship for only one year.

More information can be found on our website at [www.navysna.org](http://www.navysna.org)

Specific questions can be sent to [navysna@aol.com](mailto:navysna@aol.com)