

Skagit Runners Scholarship Application

FAQ's and Tips

Completing the Application

Why do I have to stay within the space provided on the application? Why can't I go onto another page or say "see attached" when answering a question? Why do I need to use only your fillable PDF document?

Skagit Runners wants to make the scholarship scoring process as fair as possible. We have found that when people deviate from the application form that is provided it can give an unfair advantage to that applicant. When you go onto another page it allows you to use more space for an answer which is unfair to someone who stayed within the space provided. When you answer a question with "see attached" it makes room for errors in scoring. It is not up to the scorer to determine what answer goes with what question if you were to include information that is outside of the space provided. When you try to copy and paste the fillable PDF document into another program it changes the format of the document possibly allowing an applicant to add more space to their application. One of the goals of our application process is to have you think about what you want to say and to say it as clearly as possible in the space that is provided for you. Any alterations to the application format will result in a disqualified application.

Why do I need to have two reference letters?

Skagit Runners would like to hear more about you, academically and athletically, from two different people. The purpose of a reference letter from your athletic coach is that it gives us insight into you as an athlete. The purpose of a reference letter from a teacher is that it gives us insight into you as a student and community member.

Can I submit the application online?

No, you cannot submit it online. You will need to use the fillable PDF application on our website, then print it out and submit it with your recommendation letters. You can submit your application through the mail or drop it off at Skagit Running Company (see addresses below).

Can students outside of Skagit County apply?

No. Skagit Runners scholarships are awarded to students who attend Skagit County high schools. We are a local running group and this is one way that we have decided to support our local youth running community.

Why do students who are not in track or cross country win these scholarships?

Skagit Runners is a recreational running group. While we do have runners in our group who are competitive, the focus of this group is running for recreation and fun. We feel that students who apply for this scholarship do not have to participate specifically in track or cross country, but can participate in other sports that involve running, as shown in their answers on the application.

Submitting the Application

How can I submit my completed scholarship application?

There are two ways. One way is to mail it to the following address:

Skagit Runners, Scholarship Committee, PO Box 120, Burlington, WA 98233; or you may drop it off at Skagit Running Company located at 724 S. 1st St., Mount Vernon, WA.

Scoring the Application

What happens once my application is submitted?

All applications that are received by the deadline are collected and processed. Each application is reviewed to make sure that all the necessary requirements have been met. Once they are reviewed, each applicant and application is given a number. The original application then gets duplicated so it can be modified for anonymity. Application pages two and three and the reference letters are modified to remove any personal information. This ensures that the applications are completely anonymous to our scoring committee. Once they have been modified they are then copied so that each scorer on the committee has their own copy of the application. The originals are kept by the committee chairperson for verification if any questions should come up.

How is my application scored?

The committee uses a scoring guide to score the applications. Each answer receives a score, all scores are totaled. The winners are those with the highest total scores.

What can I do to make sure that I receive top scores on my application?

In order to ensure that your application receives the highest scores possible, you need to make sure that you follow directions when completing the application and that you answer the questions as completely and clearly as possible in the spaces provided. Scores are not based on your athletic or academic ability, but by how well you answer the question.

How does my application remain anonymous?

The scholarship committee chairperson is the only member of the committee who sees the entire application. Once the deadline has been met and the applications are checked for requirements, the chairperson assigns a number to each applicant. Pages two, three, and the reference letters of the original application are then copied and your name is removed. The scoring committee will only know your application by its number. Not until after the winners are determined does the chairperson release the names and schools of the winners.

Notification of Winners

How and when are the winners notified?

You should receive either an approval or denial letter in the mail by the middle of May. Skagit Runners will contact the schools for the scholarship winners so that their accomplishment can be included in any school programs or ceremonies.

How does the money have to be applied?

The scholarship recipients must be enrolled in a university, college, or trade school during the following school year. The scholarship may only be applied to the first year of school. If you not use the scholarship within 12 months of receiving your approval letter, you forfeit the scholarship. Should you receive a scholarship, instructions will accompany your approval letter.