



# Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota



## Charter

*The Education Committee of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota exists to further the Educational goals of Sir Knights and our Masonic family. The funds for this work are held in trust to provide Scholarships to our Sir Knights and Masonic family within the jurisdiction of Minnesota to follow their goals for continuing education. This continuing education is not limited to four-year institutions, but also community colleges and other trade institutions. An education which allows our members and their families to improve themselves and their community is one simple way that they can help contribute to our communities, our families and ourselves. The officers of this Grand Commandery accept applications for Scholarship Funds each year and will award funds each year to worthy recipients to aid in recognizing their aspirations to attend institutions of higher learning.*

## Policies and Procedures

1. Members of the Committee are appointed by the sitting Grand Commander in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Minnesota.
2. The chairman of the Education Committee shall be the Deputy Grand Commander.
3. The committee shall meet in the months of July, September, November, January, February and March each year.
4. During the month of July meeting, the committee will review these policies and procedures, as well as the application, and revise them as necessary, submitting the changes to the officers for approval.
5. **The application and requirements shall be posted on the Grand Commandery website no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> each year.**
6. The topic of the applicant essay will be decided no later than November 30 each year.
7. **Applications will be accepted for Knight Templar Scholarships between the dates of January 1 and February 28.**
8. Candidates are required to be graduates of a high school, or have received their G.E.D., and accepted to one of the following post-secondary institutions:
  - a. Four-year accredited college, pursuing an undergraduate degree
  - b. Two-year community college, pursuing a professional certificate
  - c. Recognized technical or vocational program / institution
  - d. Religious or ministerial training program.
9. Applications will be submitted to the Education Committee and will include the following documentation and materials:
  - a. A completed application documents
  - b. An essay of no more than 1,000 words submitted based on the topic that each year's committee has decided upon

- c. Two (2) letters of recommendation. The letters may be from any person who can comment on the applicant's academics, character, civic or patriotic activities, job history and activities, or community involvement.
  - d. An official school transcript, or facsimile of a G.E.D., sealed in an envelope, with the signature of a school official across the sealed flap of the envelope. A required minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale is required.
10. A number of awards, consisting of no less than \$500.00 each shall be given each year, up to the maximum amount proscribed by Minnesota Masonic Charities (MMC) (currently \$3,000.00) This allows for matching funds to be used to give out scholarships of a minimum of \$1,000.00.
11. Applications shall be judged on the following criteria each year:
  - a. 50% - Educational considerations, GPA, school activities, extracurricular activities
  - b. 20% - Essay composition
  - c. 20% - Recommendations
  - d. 10% - Application scoring (answers to questions).
12. The committee shall meet in March with the purpose of deciding on awardees so as to have enough time to submit to MMC for matching scholarship funds.
13. Once awardees have been decided upon, a personal letter shall be sent to the awardees by the Grand Commander congratulating them on their being chosen, the amount of the scholarship, and the date, time and place of presentation.
14. The awardees shall be presented with their scholarships in a suitable event that allows the Grand Commandery officers to congratulate the awardees and their families.
15. Constituent Commanderies are encouraged to attend the presentation if an awardee is within its jurisdiction. This provides a local presence in the awards.
16. The chairman of the committee, or his designee shall submit an article and suitable photographs to the Minnesota Mason as well as the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.
17. Checks shall be made jointly to the Student and their academic institution.



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To the Applicant:

Before completing this application, read the informational back page which specifies the criteria for both eligibility and selection. Since the members of the Scholarship Selection Committee have not met you and have only this application by which to evaluate you, carefully consider the content and completeness of your responses to the information being sought.

Additional pages of narrative or supporting documentation may be added to any section. This can include copies of clippings, photos and other materials which will give the Committee a better insight about you, your school and your community activities. Please make copies, do not submit materials you expect to be returned.

All applications and correspondence shall be sent to:

Scholarship Selection Committee  
Grand Commandery of Minnesota  
XXXXXXX

I. Identification Data (Please use pen or type your answers)

Applicant Name	
Applicant Address	
Applicant eMail	
Applicant Phone	
Applicant High School	
Graduation Date	
Guidance Counselor	

II. Academic Record

III. Academic Plans

Cumulative GPA		Institution	
Rank in Class		Program (BA, AA, Trade, etc)	
Number in Class		Address of Institution	
ACT Score (if Taken)		Have you been Accepted?	
SAT Score (if Taken)		Start Date	

IV. Please attach a typewritten essay of no more than 1,000 words. The subject of this essay is:



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- V. Write about yourself, your home, family and interests, and your future educational or vocational plans in a way which will give the Committee the best picture of you as an individual. Do not include information requested in other sections of this application. This section shall be no more than 300 words in length, and can be attached to this application.

- VI. **School Activities:** List those high school activities in which you have participated. After each activity indicate the grade(s) in which you participated by using the symbols 9, 10, 11, 12. Then list any leadership positions you may have held in this activity and indicate the grade (9, 10, 11, 12) when the position was held. Describe any special circumstances which may have limited your participation in school activities.



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- VII. **Community Service, Civic and Patriotic Activities:** Describe the ways in which you, as a volunteer, have been of service to your community in general and/or to certain people in your community in particular. This service may have been performed as a member of an organization and/or on your own as an individual. Describe any special circumstances which may have limited your participation in community service.
- VIII. **Masonic Relationships:** Please indicate any Masonic Relationships or memberships that you, or your immediate family participate in. Include any Offices held, or special activities or awards you have received.



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- IX. **Religious Activities.** The Knights Templar are a group of Christian Masons, and as such, will give recognition for any religious activities or organizations you belong to or support. Please indicate any religious activities, groups or organizations that you participate in regularly. Please also include any awards or offices that you have held or received related to your religious activities.

### Acknowledgement

I certify that this application submitted is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. All essays and answers are of my own work, and were wholly completed by me. By submitting this application, I understand that my photograph and name may be used in publications related to the scholarships which I may be awarded. I understand that this application does not guarantee a scholarship, and I understand that I may be contacted for appearances at events surrounding this scholarship.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Signature

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Date



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Please submit with the following:

- a. An essay of no more than 1,000 words submitted based on the topic that each year's committee has decided upon
- b. Two (2) letters of recommendation. One letter shall be submitted from a school official, on school letterhead. The letter shall be submitted from a counselor, administrator or teacher. The second letter may be from any adult who can comment on the applicant's character, civil or patriotic activities, job history and activities, or community involvement.
- c. An official school transcript, sealed in an envelope, with the signature of a school official across the sealed flap of the envelope. A required minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale is required.



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The scholarships are designed to assist graduating seniors in pursuing a post-secondary education in any state at an accredited institution which provides a two or four year college program, a vocational or trade education, or ministerial education. The scholarships may be used for any bona fide school related expense such as tuition, fees, and books.

Applicants need not have a Masonic connection, nor do race, creed, religion, color, sex, or national origin have any bearing in the selection process. Recipients are selected after completing a comprehensive written application.

A broad-based criteria is used in the selection process. The principal criterion is service to school and community with special emphasis upon leadership roles in these areas. The Grand Lodge of Iowa is looking for those students who exhibit the greatest potential to be not only of service to their communities in the future but also leaders in these communities. An applicant's academic record, communication skills are carefully considered as is an evaluation of the applicant by a school official. The organization, appearance, and completeness of the application are also factors considered by the selection committee.

High school seniors who feel they meet the criteria for eligibility and selection are invited to submit applications. These applications may be obtained through the guidance department of any public high school and must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2018 for the application and all supporting materials in order to be considered by the committee.

Questions regarding applications and the scholarship program as well as completed applications should be directed to the:

Scholarship Selection Committee, Grand Commandery of Minnesota  
C/O Grand Commandery Recorder  
11501 Masonic Home Drive  
Bloomington, MN 55437-3699