

**Darcy Akers Scholarship Fund, Inc.**  
Scholarship Background and Application

**1. The Foundation**

The Darcy Akers Scholarship Fund, Inc., (the Fund) was established by members of the Rotary Club of Ormond Beach in 1988 after the tragic death of a member's daughter. The Fund is a charitable entity organized under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. The Fund's sole purpose is to provide scholarships to deserving local students in an effort to assist their post-secondary educational pursuits. The Fund was created in her name as a tribute and seeks to assist and encourage local high-school seniors to pursue post-secondary education with an emphasis on service to the community. Historically, the Fund has awarded a minimum of two 4-year scholarships since its inception. The 4-year scholarship of \$10,000 is distributed in four equal installments of \$2,500 annually and is contingent upon meeting performance standards. Eligibility and award will be decided on by a contingent of local business professionals.

Members of the Rotary Club of Ormond Beach take special pride in conducting an annual golf tournament to raise donations for the Fund which has provided more than \$650,000 in financial assistance.

**2. Eligibility**

To be eligible, each scholarship grant applicant must:

- a. Be a senior at one of the area's major high schools (Seabreeze, Mainland, Spruce Creek, Atlantic, Warner Christian Academy, Calvary or Father Lopez);
- b. Intend to attend any accredited university, college, community college, or vocational/technical institute beginning either the summer or fall semester immediately following high school graduation;
- c. Submit a **complete** application prior to the application deadline with all required supporting documentation. A complete application shall conform to all of the requirements described herein and those contained in the application itself. Applications must include all of the materials listed below and must be submitted on this Application Form. Prior year or incomplete applications **will not be considered**;
- d. Have an email address which they regularly monitor, as this will be the primary form of communication between the applicant and the Darcy Akers Scholarship Fund.
- e. Have an academic standing in the top 15 percent among peer group.

Applicants related to anyone who is, or was, a member of the Rotary Club of Ormond Beach within the past two (2) years are ineligible. The following relationships are cause for ineligibility for a scholarship grant, whether by birth, marriage, or civil proceeding: son, daughter, brother, sister, grandson, granddaughter, cousin, nephew, niece, uncle, aunt. In determining ineligibility by way of relationship, the determination by representatives of the Fund shall be final and not subject to appeal.

### **3. Scholarship Award**

Scholarship monies awarded shall be applied towards tuition and fees only. Payment of each annual distribution will be made directly to the recipient's educational institution. Prior to each annual distribution, recipient shall submit a statement or invoice from the educational institution that includes the amounts due, the remittance address, and the recipient's account number. Said statement shall be submitted directly to the treasurer of the Fund.

In addition, at the conclusion of recipient's first year, a copy of the official transcript associated with the recently concluded academic year shall be submitted together with an invoice/statement of account. Recipients are required to maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 in order to remain in compliance.

The recipient is solely responsible for providing this information and no reminders will be sent. Failure to provide either the annual statement or the annual transcripts shall result in the failure to receive the scheduled annual disbursement. Annual disbursements cannot be carried forward to subsequent years and are non-transferable.

### **4. Criteria for Selection**

The Fund shall evaluate scholarship applicants based on the following criteria:

- a. Involvement in community service and commitment to making a difference.
- b. Demonstrated leadership in school and community activities.
- c. Character, integrity, initiative and other personal qualities.
- d. Academic performance and standing.
- e. Financial need.

### **5. Application Requirements**

The Fund will rely on the following documents in evaluation of an applicant's performance with respect to the above defined selection criteria:

- a. Completed application form.
- b. Official high school transcript.
- c. Minimum of three letters of recommendation (consisting of no less than one from a teacher or counselor at the student's current school and two from individuals or organizations closely familiar with applicant's community service, leadership activities or charity work and not related to applicant nor staff members of the applicant's school).

Applicants are encouraged to procure these letters of recommendation specifically for this application. Previously written letters of recommendation (e.g. for Student-of-the-Month awards) are acceptable if less than a year old, but applicants must provide copies of all letters with the application. All letters of recommendation must include the following:

- 1. Identification of the author along with a home or business address and phone number.
  - 2. Explanation of the nature of relationship between author and applicant including how long author has known applicant.
  - 3. Specific references to the selection criteria germane to the writer's relationship to the applicant, the qualities and experiences that recommend the applicant for this award.
- e. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Student Aid Report (SAR) or Page 1 of most recently filed federal tax return of Application's parent or guardian.

**Note: Financial need is an integral criteria that will be considered during the selection process. Failure to provide one of the items listed above (or a pre-approved substitute) will automatically disqualify an applicant from consideration.**

- f. A one-page personal statement that includes a narrative addressing your life and more specifically, milestone moments of challenge, success and obstacles overcome to get where you are today. The intent of this personal statement should be to help committee members be able to get to know you better and be better prepared for meaningful dialogue during the interview and selection processes.

**NOTE: INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING FAILURE TO PROVIDE ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP.**

**6. Application Process and Timeline**

- a. Mar 1, 2023: Scholarship for 2023-2026 advertised among area high schools and application posted online ([www.darcymakers.org](http://www.darcymakers.org)).
- b. Apr 30, 2023: Application submittal deadline. Application can be submitted by mail (PO Box 104, Ormond Beach, FL 32175) or online by emailing [info@darcymakers.org](mailto:info@darcymakers.org).
- c. May 1 – May 14, 2023: Submitted applications to be reviewed by fund subcommittee and finalists selected for formal interview. Finalists to be notified accordingly and interviews to be scheduled and conducted secondary fund subcommittee.
- d. May 15, 2023: Scholarship recipients to be notified upon award.
- e. TBD: Presentation at baccalaureate and installation banquet
- f. TBD: 2023 Rotary Club of Ormond Beach Installation Banquet (scholarship recipients and parents to be invited).

**7. Standing Invitation to Rotary Club of Ormond Beach**

Award recipients are encouraged to visit the Rotary Club of Ormond Beach annually to update the club. Award recipients may address the club for a few minutes on their post-secondary experience and take questions. This allows the Rotary Club of Ormond Beach to follow the progress of recipients as they pursue their education.

**8. Miscellaneous**

If selected for an award, applicants consent to the use of their name, picture, and selected information from their application (but excluding any contact information) in Fund publicity. While the Fund is committed to the youth of our community and to the offering of this program, it nonetheless reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to amend, augment, or cancel all or any part of this program at any time and for any reason. Questions may be addressed to via e-mail to [info@DarcyAkers.org](mailto:info@DarcyAkers.org).

**Darcy Akers Scholarship Fund, Inc.**  
**APPLICATION FORM**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Prospective applicants must be in the top 15% of their senior class. Additional criteria to be considered include community service, demonstrated leadership in school and community activities, character, integrity, initiative and other personal qualities, and financial need. Finalists will be required to attend an in-person interview with a subcommittee of the Fund. In addition, the following documentation **must be included** with this application form:

Description	Enclosed
1. Completed Scholarship Application	
2. Official Transcript, Including Class Rank and SAT/ACT Scores	
3. Letters of Recommendation (3)	
4. FAFSA SAR <u>or</u> Parent/Guardian Tax Return	
5. Personal Statement	
6. Detailed Resume (Optional)	

I swear and affirm that the information provided on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I promise that, if selected, I will strive to meet or exceed the stated requirements for recipients of the Darcy Akers Scholarship Fund, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated:

**I. STUDENT/APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Last:	First:	MI:
Mailing Address (City, State ZIP):		
Phone (H):	Phone (C):	Email:
Date of Birth:	Place of Birth (City, State):	
Parent/Guardian:	Phone:	Relationship:
Parent/Guardian:	Phone:	Relationship:
What College Is Your First Choice?	Why?	Have You Been Accepted?
Description (employment, membership in organizations/clubs, participation in athletics/community service/philanthropy, etc.):		
Honors & Special Recognitions:		
Briefly describe your goals, aspirations and what separates you from your peers:		

**II. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL NEED:**

Estimated Annual College Expenses:	
Tuition	
Room & Board	
Books & Supplies	
Total Estimated Annual College Expenses	
Estimated Annual Funds Available:	
Florida Academic Scholar	
Bright Futures	
Florida Prepaid	
Other Scholarship(s)	
Family Contribution/Savings	
Total Estimated Annual Funds Available	
Estimated Remaining Annual Need	