IIRSA Student Scholarship Program - Conference Registration

The Illinois Intramural Recreational Sports Association (IIRSA) Student Scholarship Program has been developed to provide students with financial assistance for attending the NIRSA Region III Student Lead On, NIRSA Annual Conference or a related professional development opportunity in the field of recreation.

The goal of this scholarship program is to provide students with opportunities for personal and professional growth through their involvement and attendance at various conferences.

By design, this program provides IIRSA with the opportunity to offer recognition and financial support to students who excel in their academic, extracurricular and vocational pursuits. While these grants may be beneficial to students who are currently attending IIRSA and NIRSA sponsored conferences and workshops, it is the hope that such financial assistance may provide all students considering our profession with the opportunity, incentive and means to attend a professional development opportunity.

Scholarship Eligibility

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be an IIRSA member https://www.illinoisirsa.org/memberships
2. Be currently enrolled as a student in an accredited Illinois college, university or community college
3. Be majoring in recreation or a closely related field, and/or be heavily involved within the campus recreation department at their institution.
4. Submit a current resume along with the completed application.

Selection Criteria

1. Candidates must meet all eligibility requirements to be considered for selection.
2. Candidates and their submitted materials (resume and responses) will be rated on the following:
    a. Leadership and involvement in the field of recreational sports
    b. Involvement with local and campus activities
    c. Potential of personal and professional growth for the individual
    d. **Use of AI is not permitted**. Your response should be based on your experience.

Selection Committee

The Scholarship Committee will consist of at least three (3) professionals and one (1) student member(s) of IIRSA. Committee members from varying and diverse institutions will be appointed by the IIRSA State Director. The State Director will act as an ex-officio member, voting only to break any ties that occur during the selection process.

Execution of Awards

The number and amount of awards offered annually will vary. The final allocation will be determined by the financial state of the scholarship fund. All decisions, including but not limited to the amount of assistance awarded to each student, how many scholarships are awarded, requests to reallocate funds from recipients, etc. will be left to the discretion of the Scholarship Committee, with final ratification from the IIRSA Executive Committee.

Students may use the award to attend NIRSA Region III Student Lead On, NIRSA Annual Conference or a related professional development opportunity in the field of recreation. Priority in funding will be given to students attending NIRSA or IIRSA endorsed events. The maximum allowable scholarship award in any given year, regardless of the conference, will be equal to the NIRSA Student Member early bird registration to the NIRSA Annual Conference.

Obligations of Recipients

1. Recipients must notify the IIRSA Scholarship Committee Chair or their designee in writing to claim their award. Please note what the award would be like to use for (i.e. travel, lodging, registration).

2. Recipients should note if they have received any additional funding/scholarships (i.e. Scholarship through the NIRSA Foundation).

3. Recipients must attend the conference during the academic year in which they received the scholarship or forfeit their award. If any award recipient is not able to attend the conference, the scholarship may be awarded to the next highest ranked applicant or returned to the scholarship fund.

4. Recipients must provide IIRSA with receipts for expenses after completing registration. The recipient will be reimbursed in the dollar amount of the award.

5. Recipients are expected to serve in a volunteer capacity when possible. The State Director is available to assist recipients who are interested in obtaining assignments to determine appropriate opportunities.

6. Recipients are expected to attend the State Meeting at the Annual Conference to be recognized. If a recipient is unable to attend, they must contact the Chair of IIRSA Scholarship Committee.

Please complete the IIRSA Student Scholarship Application here:https://forms.gle/HKB11YJS6UcVWBfN8

IIRSA Scholarship Important Dates

Monday, October 19 - Student Scholarship Application Opens
Friday, December 4 - Student Scholarship Application Closes
Monday, December 21 - Notification of Award

For questions, please contact Ashley Sims - asims19@depaul.edu , Scholarship Committee Chair.