



Slate Belt Rising Scholarship Guidelines and Procedures

I. General Overview

Slate Belt Rising (SBR) may in its discretion award scholarship grants (\$1000) on behalf of individuals (paid directly to qualified educational institutions or for the purchase of tools), which grants may be used exclusively for tuition at post-secondary educational institutions that normally maintain a regular faculty and curriculum, and for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at such institutions, for room and board expenses payable to the institution, or for the purchase of tools for a student entering the workforce in a trade. Scholarship grants will usually be administered through scholarship funds as allocated through the Slate Belt Rising Neighborhood Partnership Program. The Slate Belt Rising Youth Engagement Committee will approve all scholarship programs established by such Scholarship Funds in advance of any solicitation of applications. The Committee will make the ultimate decision regarding scholarship award distributions. Grants will be awarded for one year.

II. Scholarship Selection Process

A. Criteria for Selection

The Committee will develop appropriate scholarship purposes and criteria. The Committee will review the proposed purposes of each scholarship to ensure that such purposes are consistent with the Slate Belt Rising's charitable purposes and its mission. The Committee shall review and shall have final approval authority over the adopted criteria for each scholarship.

The scholarship criteria must be "objective and nondiscriminatory." The selection criteria must also be reasonably related to the purposes of the scholarship. Criteria may include, but need not be limited to: prior academic performance, performance on tests designed to measure ability and aptitude for college work, recommendations from instructors, financial need, and the conclusions that the selection committee might draw from a personal interview or written statement as to the individual's motivation, character, ability, and potential.

All scholarship applicants shall submit an application, which shall include a biographical record and supporting material, including letters of recommendation, grade transcripts, and special awards. The Committee will develop the scholarship application form for each scholarship. The Committee shall have ultimate approval authority over all application forms.

B. Selection Committee

The Committee will act as the selection committee and will have ultimate approval authority over final scholarship award recipients.

C. Nondiscriminatory Policy

All scholarships shall be awarded on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis. In selecting scholarship recipients, typically, no employee or family member of a donor, an advisor, or a member of the Committee, is eligible to receive scholarship grants.

III. Solicitation of Applicants

Application forms shall be distributed by counselors and other administrators at the Bangor Area and Pen Argyl School Districts. Slate Belt Rising will also work with Families First and Slater Family Network to identify eligible applicants.

IV. Notification of Scholarship Recipients

SBR scholarship recipients shall be notified after the Committee has given final approval of the scholarship award recipients. Notification can be given either by the SBR Director or by a representative of the Committee. The SBR Director (or a representative of the Committee, after approval by the Committee) shall provide each scholarship recipient with a letter notifying him/her of the scholarship, and specifying that all amounts must be used exclusively for tuition at post-secondary educational institutions that normally maintain a regular faculty and curriculum, and for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at such institutions, or for room and board expenses payable to the institution. The letter shall inform the student that no funds may be disbursed until SBR receives confirmation that the student is enrolled in the educational institution, at which time the funds shall be disbursed to the school for the student's benefit.

V. Supervision of Grants

Slate Belt Rising shall send scholarship checks directly to the educational institution selected by the recipient, and shall instruct the institution to deposit the check into the recipient's school account upon verification of the student's full-time status.

VI. Record Keeping

1. all information that SBR secures to evaluate the qualification of potential scholarship recipients;
2. the name, address and other contact or identifying information for each scholarship recipient;
3. the amount and purposes of each scholarship; and
4. a copy of the letter notifying the recipient of the scholarship grant.

VII. Investigation and Enforcement Procedures

In the unlikely event that any individual causes the misuse of scholarship award funds, the Program will pursue the following investigation and enforcement measures.

It is the policy of SBR to require the educational institutions that have received funds on behalf of the scholarship recipients to return unused funds to SBR if the student transfers, or otherwise ceases to be enrolled at the institution, or if the funds cannot be used on behalf of the student for academic purposes or for room and board expenses payable to the institution. Slate Belt Rising requires that the scholarship recipient notify SBR if they transfer, or otherwise cease to be enrolled at the institution, or if the funds cannot be used on behalf of the student for academic purposes or for room and board expenses payable to the institution. Slate Belt Rising does not intend that scholarship awards be made available directly to students.

For an applicant that receives a scholarship for the purchase of tools to enter into the workforce, Slate Belt Rising requires that the scholarship recipient notify SBR if they are terminated from employment or become employed with a different company. If there is a termination of employment within one year of receiving scholarship funding, Slate Belt Rising may require the scholarship recipient to pay back the entire scholarship amount to SBR within thirty (30) days of the date their employment is terminated.

Qualifications

The Slate Belt Rising Scholarship Program was created to provide students the opportunity to further their education and help defray the cost of post-secondary education. In order to apply for this scholarship, candidate must:

1. Be a high school senior who has been accepted at a four-year university/college, community college, technical school, or is entering the workforce in a trade; an adult that is continuing their education.
2. Have a grade point average of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale).
3. Have verifiable volunteer experience within the past two years.
4. Have membership and/or leadership experience in clubs and organizations.
5. Scholarship recipients will be required to volunteer for two hours at a Slate Belt Rising event/program or an event/program in the Borough of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland, or Wind Gap. The Slate Belt Rising Director will notify recipients of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Slate Belt Rising Scholarship Program

APPLICATION FORM

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____ GPA: _____

Personal E-mail: _____

Parental E-mail (if applicable): _____

Which college/university/technical school will/are you attend(ing)? _____

Field of Study: _____

Anticipated Date of Graduation? _____

Have you secured employment in a trade? If so, provide company name and contact information.

List any awards and/or scholarships you have received.

List any volunteer experiences over the past two years. (include name of organization and phone number)

Describe your membership and/or leadership experience in clubs and other organizations.

Please attach the following items to this application form:

1. Two letters of reference (one from a volunteer experience).
2. An official school transcript.

For consideration, please return the completed application by **Friday, April 28, 2023** to:

Slate Belt Rising

197 Pennsylvania Avenue

Bangor, PA 18013

(Applicant Signature)

Incomplete applications will not be considered.