

Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I am eligible for a particular scholarship?

Each scholarship fund has specific eligibility criteria defined by the donor when the fund was established. You will find specific details for each scholarship in the description. This should help you decide which scholarships to apply for.

What can scholarship awards cover?

IRS guidelines require that scholarships be applied for educational expenses. This includes:

- Tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution;
- Course-related expenses, such as fees, books, supplies, and
- Equipment required for courses of instruction at eligible educational institutions

Are scholarship awards taxable?

We recommend you consult a tax expert for advice. Generally, for degree-seeking students, the portion of the scholarship that is used for room and board is taxable. JNF encourages scholarships to be used for non-taxable purposes, including tuition and required fees.

For non-degree-seeking students, all the scholarships are taxable. IRS Topic no. 421 provides more clarification.

Can I apply a scholarship to my room & board expense?

Awards paid to the schools will cover educational expenses that are shown on your school's bill. This includes room & board IF they are paid for through the school. JNF **CANNOT** pay an outside person/entity for housing (i.e., rent, fraternities/sororities that require direct payment). The scholarship WILL cover meal plans purchased through the school. A tax expert can help clarify your tax ramifications for using scholarship funds to pay for room and board.

If I receive a scholarship, how will the money be disbursed?

Students will receive a letter from JNF at or after their high school senior awards night outlining the award amount and the required documentation. Checks are made payable to and directly sent to the educational institution after JNF has received a copy of your college/university tuition fee statement for the fall semester.

Is my scholarship renewable?

Most JNF-administered scholarships are one-time scholarships unless specifically outlined in the scholarship description.

Timeline for Scholarships

November 15 - March 1	General Scholarship applications are open on the JNF website
End of May	Scholarships awarded, letter detailing acceptance included with award
August 1st	Online scholarship acceptance form and tuition statement/bill due from the student
August 15	Checks are mailed by JNF directly to the educational institution

Scholarship Payout Policy

In accordance with our legal fund agreements with donors, all institutional scholarship funds administered by the Jasper Newton Foundation must be used exclusively for Qualified Educational Expenses as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Qualified expenses include tuition, fees, and other required costs for enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution. Scholarship disbursements will only be made directly to the college or university bursar's office upon receipt of an official bill **showing a balance due for qualified educational expenses**. The balance on your official bill can include room and board (including meal plans) if they are paid for through the school. JNF CANNOT pay an outside person/entity for housing (i.e., rent through a landlord, fraternities/sororities that require direct payment). If your educational expenses total less than the amount of the scholarship award, you will **not** be eligible to receive the balance of the scholarship paid directly to you.

Recipients must formally claim their scholarship by the JNF deadline (August 1) and/or communicate with the Program Director regarding their college financial plans **BEFORE** the first semester of their freshman year. Failure to do so may result in the scholarship being revoked.

Recipients have four (4) years from the date of high school graduation to fully utilize their scholarship award. Additionally, if a recipient fails to maintain written communication with the Foundation (via mail or email) for more than three (3) consecutive academic semesters, the scholarship award will be forfeited.

JNF reserves the right to allow students the ability to defer their awards for the following reasons: military service, FFA State Officer appointment, illness, or other extenuating circumstances as approved by the JNF Board of Directors.