

Goals of the Carson Scholars Program

The purpose of the Carson Scholars Fund is to recognize and reward outstanding students in the United States enrolled in grades 4-11 who exemplify academic excellence and humanitarian qualities. Carson Scholars receive a \$1,000 scholarship invested towards a four-year college or university, an Olympic-sized medal and certificate, and an invitation to a regional recognition ceremony. Their schools receive a trophy (or nameplate) to be displayed.

The goal of the Carson Scholars Fund goes beyond instilling an interest in college early on and assisting with the costs of college:

1. **Carson Scholars are role models in their schools.** The impact of our program goes beyond individual students and families to schools and classrooms. Carson Scholars encourage other students in their school to strive for excellence and serve as peer role models. Our scholarship program is available only to students in grades 4-11. These students have sufficient time to be recognized by their educators and peers, and to have the intended impact on their schools. Our research shows that 94% of our scholars feel that being named a Carson Scholar has helped them become role models in their school.
2. **Carson Scholars are recognized by their school.** As part of the Carson Scholars Program, schools are provided with a trophy to be displayed proudly in display cases. The aim is to add value to academic achievements and to refocus the spotlight on education; too often athletic achievements are recognized more than academic success. Carson Scholars are honored for their academics and motivated to continue to strive for excellence.

The Carson Scholars Fund feels strongly that students should be continually recognized for their achievements. The Carson Scholars Recognition Program affirms the prestigious status of Carson Scholars in their pursuit of academic and career goals. This elite honor continues to recognize previous scholars who still meet the high expectations of Carson Scholars. Scholars are honored with a special recognition package consisting of notification of their scholar status renewal, a commemorative pin to attach to the ribbon of their original medal, and a certificate of achievement. Schools will continue to receive a trophy (or nameplate) to recognize the scholars who have been recognized through this program each year. Over 2,000 Carson Scholars have been recognized multiple times.

Carson Scholars epitomize academic excellence. Schools are eligible to nominate only one student to apply to our scholarship program, ensuring that each nominee is a leader in their school. Carson Scholar must be nominated by their school, meet a minimum GPA requirement of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale and provide a teacher recommendation. All of these requirements allow for fair comparison of students.

Due to the nature of the Carson Scholars Program, only students enrolled in accredited public or private schools in the United States are eligible for our program. A school must involve a group of

students and teachers meeting regularly in the same location, so that the recognition and role model components of our program can be fully realized.

The Carson Scholars Fund is not able to properly evaluate the nomination process, report cards, teacher recommendations, etc. to determine if alternative schooling arrangements (homeschooling, virtual classrooms, non-traditional schooling methods, etc.) are equivalent to the thousands of traditional schools we work with.

In order to ensure fair scoring, an applicant's grades need to be comparable to those of other students through a district- or school-wide grading system. We ask that these grades be provided by an educator who has graded multiple students using a consistent set of standards during the same semester. These rules ensure a fair and accurate representation of an applicant's academic success in comparison to his/her peers.

Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic achievement and humanitarian qualities, without regard to financial need or ethnicity.