

# The Arizona Cowpuncher's Scholarship Organization, Inc.

The purpose of The Arizona Cowpuncher's Scholarship Organization, Inc. (known herein as ACSO) is to provide funds for educational programs beyond high school. This 501 (c) 3 status, non-profit organization welcomes charitable donations and provides a receipt for tax deduction purposes. Distribution of funds is determined annually by the Board of Directors of ACSO, based upon but not limited to the requirements stated herein.

## *A Note to all Potential Applicants*

The ACSO Scholarship Eligibility Requirements, Scholarship Application Procedures and the ACSO Scholarship Application forms are very specific. Potential applicants are urged to read them in their entirety to determine if they qualify to apply for an ACSO Scholarship. After reading, should there still be a question regarding whether or not one meets the requirements, hopefuls are to submit their application in its entirety as instructed. Hopefuls are not to mail, email, fax or place phone calls to anyone asking questions regarding the eligibility requirements, as no single person can make a determination. Decisions are made strictly at the discretion of the ACSO Board of Directors, and they will make such determinations as a whole, at the time of the annual review of applications.

## *Scholarship Eligibility Requirements*

- Applicant must be a citizen of the United States, and an Arizona resident. An applicant whose home is in Arizona, but is attending an out-of-state school will be considered an Arizona resident.
- Applicant must be a high school graduate or continuing education student, attending a college or trade school (defined as an accredited institution which qualifies for financial aid) student, taking a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester or equivalent.
- Applicant's IMMEDIATE family (for these purposes, defined as father, step-father, mother, step-mother) must be involved as owners or employees of a ranch or ranches. The only exception is an applicant who is employed by a ranch, in which case proof (pay stub) is required and must be submitted with the scholarship application.

## *Scholarship Application Procedures*

Submissions are to be sent after December 31 and no later than February 10. **We apologize, but it has become necessary to require that application submissions be sent via FedEx ONLY** due to lengthy delays of some submissions that were sent through the US Postal Service. Additionally, there is no US Mail delivery to our home, therefore, application submissions sent via FedEx should be addressed to: The Arizona Cowpuncher's Scholarship Organization, Inc., Attention: Valerie Owen, 7720 S. Cattle Call Rd., Kirkland, AZ 86332. The scholarship application is to be filled out in its entirety and mailed in one envelope with all of the required supporting information and documents as detailed below:

- Official Birth Certificate (required for first-time applicants only).
- Two letters of recommendation from persons other than family members (required for first-time applicants only).
- A Letter of Intent, which includes:
  1. A brief summary of high school, college or trade school achievements and activities.
  2. A letter telling of your personal goals including an explanation of how a scholarship award from ACSO will assist you in meeting those goals. Include the dollar amount(s) for all school related expenses (tuition, books, lab fees, etc.), as well as dollar amount(s) of other scholarship applied for and/or granted.
  3. The name of the educational facility you plan to attend.

Please note, as this cannot be stressed enough: There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to the deadline. In addition to late applications, incomplete applications or applications received without all of the required documentation/information will not be considered.

Review of applications and scholarship award decisions will be made at the annual Board of Directors meeting and letters notifying applicants of results will be sent out. To learn the date of the meeting and the date the letters will be sent out by, consult the ACSO website ([www.AllAboutACSO.com](http://www.AllAboutACSO.com)). Applicants who are not granted a scholarship award will receive a letter stating such, but a specific reason(s) may not be provided and requests by any method asking for an explanation will not be acknowledged. Successful applicants will receive a congratulatory letter informing them of the amount of the ACSO Scholarship award they have been approved to receive, which is to be kept in strict confidence. Included with the letter will be two ACSO Scholarship Vouchers and ACSO Scholarship Voucher Redemption Instructions. Recipients alone are responsible for following the instructions, submitting the appropriate voucher and documentation by the specified deadline(s) to prompt the payment(s) of the approved scholarship(s). Failure to follow these instructions and/or meet these deadlines will result in forfeiture of the approved scholarship award. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to the deadline(s). Again, these instructions are very specific, but after reading them, should recipients have questions, they are not to mail, email, fax or call. Instead, they are to submit their application and documentation as instructed, keeping in mind that submitting more than required is far preferable over submitting less than required and being denied a scholarship award as a result.