

## THE SENECA LOGGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Seneca Logger Memorial Scholarship fund has been so named in order to commemorate the men who played on the town softball team sponsored by Edward Hines in the early years of the community. ([Click here](#) to see photographs of the team) The Seneca Loggers, as they were called, were symbolic of the wonderful men and women who made, and continue to make, Seneca the great place it is for raising children and allowing “kids to be kids”. Though Seneca has always been a small, isolated community, its residents have always given of themselves to continually improve its standard of living and to offer their children the best education possible, both in and outside the schoolhouse. This scholarship fund is merely a continuation of the work started by those pioneers.

The number of scholarships awarded each year and the amounts of each scholarship will be dependent upon the amount of money available in the general fund which has been identified for this program at that time. Consequently, that number will not be made public until the scholarships are awarded at the graduation ceremony. The intent is to award as many scholarships as possible, each in the amount of \$500.

Of the total number of scholarships available each year, half of that number will be reserved for Seneca Elementary School (SES) eighth graders coming from the Bear Valley–Izee area. The remaining scholarships are open to all eighth grade students in SES. Those students, regardless where they live, who want to compete for a scholarship and meet the minimum criteria, should take the necessary steps to apply for a scholarship. An Order of Merit list will be determined based on all qualified applicants and how they were assessed relative to each other. Again, this will be done without regard to where the students are from. Prior to graduation, an assessment of the available funds will be made and only then will it be determined how many scholarships can be awarded. That same number of applicants from the top of the Merit of Order list will receive scholarships.

Once awarded, scholarship money will be reinvested/deposited in separate named accounts for each scholarship winner. Following graduation from high school and once the students have been accepted by and have enrolled in a college or university of their choice and have completed one semester of studies, the accounts will be liquidated and the principal and any earnings from the four-plus years will be paid directly to the respective college or university by the Seneca School Foundation, Inc.

Neither the students nor their parents or legal guardians will ever have direct access to the funds in these accounts. If a student loses his or her scholarship for failing to meet any of the requirements below, the respective account will be liquidated and all funds and earnings will be returned to the general fund. These returned funds will be added to the money available for scholarships being offered during the next School Year (SY).

The purpose of the scholarship program is:

1. To provide Seneca Elementary School students, early in their educational experience, an incentive to strive for excellence both in and outside the classroom.
2. To provide these same students the tools they will need in high school to be highly competitive when applying for scholarships and enrollment in colleges / universities with stringent acceptance standards.

3. To assist those students early on who have the potential to do well and who, with consistent, hard work, could achieve anything they set their minds to do, but oft times do not engage themselves until it is too late to be competitive.
4. To provide students with limited or no financial resources, but who have the desire and ability to eventually attend a college or university of their choice, with additional financial support.
5. To assist in increasing the number of students attending the Seneca Elementary School. This scholarship will be something not offered anywhere else in the county and probably not in the state of Oregon, which in itself, might induce parents living outside of Bear Valley to more seriously consider sending their children to attend the Seneca Elementary School rather than other schools in the area.

The following describes the critical aspects of the scholarship program:

1. Minimum application requirements

- a. Interested students must have a minimum cumulative academic GPA 3.50 for the 8th Grade SY up to the point in time they submit their applications. This is not waiverable. It is in the best interests of the students with marginal GPA's to submit their applications as late in the application period as possible in order to give themselves ample opportunity to improve their averages.

- b. Interested students must have been continuously enrolled in Seneca Elementary School since the beginning of their sixth grade SY.

- c. Interested students must fill out and submit a scholarship application form to their teacher no later than (NLT) the application deadline described below. Applications will have a section for parents to confirm their awareness of the application and its implications, and to sign their name(s). The forms will not be distributed in a general fashion. Students interested in applying for a scholarship must request forms from the teacher.

- d. At the time an application form is submitted, each student will also submit a 500-word essay he or she has personally written without any outside assistance. This includes assistance by parents. The topic of the essays will vary year to year and will have been decided upon by the scholarship committee by January 15th of the current SY.

2. Evaluation / Selection criteria:

Criteria will be based on the "whole person" concept. The records of those students selected will have demonstrated a strong combined performance in the following areas.

Academic scholarship and achievement (Weight: 50%)

- Cumulative GPA for current SY
- Recognition for special achievements in academic activities and projects

Leadership (Weight: 30%)

- Involvement and achievements in school sponsored extra curricular activities, i.e. athletics, band, school clubs and organizations, etc.
- Demonstrated leadership skills in these activities
- Involvement in community service projects and activities
- Involvement in clubs, organizations, and activities offered outside the school house, i.e. boy/girl scouts, church activities, work opportunities, etc.

### Character (20%)

- Letters of recommendation from adults who have first hand knowledge of the students and their character, i.e. teachers, coaches, club/organization leaders, members of the community, clergy, work supervisors, etc.
- Results of a 15-minute interview with selected members of the scholarship committee

### 3. Important dates:

- a. Beginning of the scholarship application period and public announcement of the application essay topic: April 15 or on the first school day thereafter if the 15th falls on a weekend.
- b. End of the scholarship application period: May 12 or the first school day thereafter if the 12th falls on a weekend. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- c. Candidate interviews: All interviews will take place on the same day sometime between May 16 – 31.
- d. Announcement of scholarship winners: Graduation Ceremony

### 4. Requirements for students to retain their scholarships until entry into College / University

- a. Have a minimum cumulative academic GPA of 3.50 by the end of the senior year in high school.
- b. Pursue a college preparation course of studies all four years of high school
- c. Continual involvement in school sponsored academic and extra curricular activities and/or school government. It is not a specific requirement but, because of the added benefits it brings to the students, it is strongly encouraged that students seek out and attain positions of leadership in such activities.
- d. Maintain the highest standards of character and demeanor. Students being suspended or expelled from high school for infractions, caught breaking the law or proven at anytime to have lied or cheated will immediately lose their scholarships.
- e. Maintain an excellent attendance record in school
- f. Remain enrolled in school through graduation
- g. Be accepted by and enroll in a college/university of their choice the school year immediately following graduation from high school.
- h. Successfully complete one semester or 2 quarters of studies as a full-time student after which time the scholarship funds will be released directly to the institution.

