

## **NAO Scholarship Program**

NAO is awarding an annual \$500 scholarship to a qualifying high school graduate from Nepali community in Oregon and SW Washington who is planning to enroll in a 4-year university or college. The goal of the scholarship program is to provide an opportunity to Nepali students to complete their college degree successfully while encouraging them to show interest in their community.

### **Objectives:**

- Promote interest in higher education among younger generation of Nepalese to encourage them to strive for better future.
- Promote participation in community services among younger generation to instill in them a sense of social responsibility and commitment toward their communities
- Encourage NAO membership and participation in its programs and activities.

### **Selection Criteria and Process**

NAO Executive Committee (EC) will administer the NAO Scholarship Program. The EC will determine selection criteria and the process to select the finalist for the award. The process will be transparent and will be documented as the program gets implemented. If any of the candidates are related in any way to the committee member, they must recuse themselves from the selection process. A violation of this tenet will disqualify a successful candidate.

Candidates' applications are de-identified by NAO general secretary and will be reviewed and graded by the committee members based on the set selection criteria. The general secretary and the president will not score any candidates; however, if we have a tie, the president can cast the final determining vote to break the tie.

### **1. Award**

- a. \$500 scholarship will be awarded to help with college education expenses.
- b. The committee will award one outstanding candidate each year.
- c. Award will be presented as cash or a check from NAO.
- d. If the fund is not awarded it will be put back in the pool for future awards.

### **2. Eligibility Requirements:**

- a. Applicants must have resided in either Oregon or Southwest Washington State for more than 6 months.
- b. Applicants must be of Nepali heritage.
- c. Applicants must be a member of NAO.
- d. Applicants must have at least 3.3 GPA.
- e. Applicants must be high school seniors and a proof of admission to college. Proof can be presented before the award is given.

### **3. Application Process:**

- a. Applicants must write a 750-1000 words essay describing *personal experiences that have made a difference in their lives and how he or she will utilize the award money to further their education.*
- b. Applicants must submit a resume (current standing in school and extracurricular activities including voluntary community services).
- c. Applicants must include a letter of recommendation from their school teacher.
- d. Applicants must submit their official and/or unofficial transcript.
- e. Applicants must include a proof of their current NAO membership.

### **4. Selection Process and Award Announcement:**

- a. Selection process will be managed by an independent three person NAO Scholarship Candidate Selection Taskforce.
- b. Applicants will be evaluated based on their academic achievement, extracurricular activities in the community and written essay. Financial need of applicant will be given due consideration.
- c. The selection team may request outside evaluators from local community to evaluate essays.
- d. Application deadline will be April 30<sup>th</sup> of a calendar year.
- e. The winning candidate will be announced by July 31<sup>st</sup> and award will be presented at Dasain party.

### **NAO Scholarship Candidate Selection Taskforce.**

NAO Executive Committee (EC) will form an independent NAO Scholarship Candidate Selection Taskforce (SCST), selecting three members from the Nepali community to finalize the candidate for the NAO scholarship award.

The tenure of the Taskforce will be for the period required to make the final decision on the candidate selection and once the award winner is announced the Taskforce will be automatically dissolved. The terms of reference for the Taskforce members will be set by the Executive Committee. If any of the candidates are related in any way to the taskforce members, they must recuse themselves from the selection process. A violation of this tenet will disqualify a successful candidate. Executive Committee may reappoint taskforce members.

### **5. Selection Criteria:**

- i. 30% for essay content
- ii. 25% GPA & Recommendations
- iii. 20% participation in community activities (help in NAO functions, other community service)
- iv. 20% extracurricular activities (sports, music, volunteering, etc.)
- v. 5% financial need

**Timeline:**

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|---|------------------------|
| I. NAO Scholarship Program Announcement   | September/October 2009 |
| II. Application Deadline                  | April 30, 2010         |
| III. Announcement of Successful Candidate | July 31, 2010          |
| IV. Award Hand-Over at the Dasain Event   | October 2010           |

**Send Application materials to:**

Sanjeev Pradhan  
3230 NE 81st Ave  
Portland, OR 97213  
naoinfo@nepaloregon.org