

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR A S.H.E.A.F. GRANT STUDENT HIGHER EDUCATION AWARD FUND

The purpose of S.H.E.A.F. is to assist deserving students in pursuing a higher education in an accredited college, university, vocational, technical or commercial school preferably in the State of Florida. Students eligible for the awards are members in good standing of a subordinate chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Florida or their daughters, sons, granddaughters, or grandsons. This eligibility includes daughters, sons, granddaughters or grandsons of deceased members who were in good standing at the time of their death.

The student and the member on whose eligibility they are applying must be residents of the State of Florida for no less than five years. **The member on whose eligibility they are applying must be a member of a Florida O.E.S. chapter for the preceding five years.**

The student must submit verification of acceptance in an accredited college, university, vocational, technical or commercial school preferably in the State of Florida.

Preference is given to students who are members of the Order or who have a parent who is a member. Also, preference is given to undergraduate students who have completed two years of their higher education and who are classified as a Junior or Senior.

Special attention is given to each area of the state in making the awards and no more than one student should be sponsored by a chapter.

All applicants must have **a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0** and must maintain this academic level to be awarded an additional grant. This is verified by requests made by the student for official school transcripts that are sent directly to the State Chairman.

The maximum amount that can be approved for any student award is \$2,000.00 per year, payable in two payments. A maximum of four years for any one student can be awarded.

It is necessary for the student to be sponsored by a Florida O.E.S. Chapter, **and the necessary application must be signed by the Worthy Matron and the Secretary and be under Seal of the chapter.** For continuance of the grant, each semester the applicant must request in writing sponsorship from the O.E.S. Chapter. **The Secretary will send the student's request and the chapter's approval under Seal with proper signatures to the State Chairman.**

The number of grants awarded annually is dependent upon funds available. Love gifts, memorials, donations and contributions are some of the sources of revenue for the S.H.E.A.F. account.

The first or only stated meeting in November is designated as S.H.E.A.F. Night and the donations and silver drills given at this meeting largely determine funds raised for the year.

In preparing your application, keep in mind that the deadline for the Fall Semester is May 1st and the deadline for the Spring Semester is November 1st. All applications must be postmarked by these dates, with the exception of the transcripts. All incomplete or late files will be denied.

DIRECTIONS WHEN APPLYING FOR A SHEAF GRANT THE FIRST TIME

STUDENT:

1. **Write** a letter requesting sponsorship from a Florida OES chapter. This should be sent with ample time to provide the Chapter to act upon the request. Our Chapters meet once or twice a month and sponsorship requires a vote of the chapter.
2. **Complete** application form.
3. **Obtain** three letters of recommendation noting your character and financial need.
4. **SEND** the following to the OES Chapter with whom you are requesting sponsorship at least a month before the deadline:
 - a. Letter requesting sponsorship
 - b. Completed application
 - c. Three letters of recommendation
 - d. Copy of letter of acceptance from school.
5. **Request** an official transcript from your school be sent directly to the State Chairman. If you are currently in school, the transcript should be of the semester you are now attending. This transcript should be sent as soon as it is available. **Because our deadline is before most semesters will end, this is the only document we will accept after the deadline.**

CHAPTER:

1. Upon receipt of the application packet, **vote** on sponsorship.
2. **Write** a sponsorship letter under Chapter seal and signed by both the Worthy Matron and Secretary.
3. **Affix** Chapter seal on application and have signed by the the Worthy Matron and the Secretary.
4. **SEND** the following to the S.H.E.A.F. State Chairman:
 - a. Applicant's letter requesting sponsorship
 - b. Completed application with seal and signatures
 - c. Three letters of recommendation
 - d. Copy of acceptance from school
 - e. Chapter's letter of sponsorship with seal and signatures.