

**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
DISTRICT LODGE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2020

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

For the different kinds of scholarship offered, amounts, etc. please see the *Scholarship Offerings* page

IMPORTANT! STUDY THESE REQUIREMENTS THOROUGHLY, KEEP THE PAGES AND USE THEM AS A CHECKLIST!
It is to your advantage to get started as early as possible on filling out the application form, gathering the required documents, and writing your essay. The whole process may take longer than you think!

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must:

- 1 - be a member in good standing of a Local Lodge within District 15 for at least one year prior to the opening of the 2019 District Convention. (*For the Sjölundén Camp award only:* The applicant must either be a member, a child, or a grandchild of a local lodge member in good standing.
- 2 - submit a completed, neatly written application along with all the required documents, before the due date to the Scholarship Committee Chair. The due date for documents is December 31, 2019.
- 3 - provide a letter from the applicant's Local Lodge Secretary, stamped with the Local Lodge Seal, verifying the applicant's lodge membership and confirming their good standing in the lodge. (*For the Sjölundén Camp & Swedish Island Language awards only:* If the applicant is not yet a member of the lodge, the verification requirement applies to the applicants' parent, guardian or grandparent.) The letter shall also describe the applicant's past and present involvement in lodge activities. The Secretary shall enclose the letter in a sealed envelope before giving it to the applicant or mail/e-mail it directly to the Scholarship Committee Chair on or before the application deadline.
- 4 - submit a separate page describing the applicant's lodge involvement (offices held, meeting attendance, participation in lodge activities, etc.)
- 5 - For the Swedish Island Language camp only: turn 18 years of age before the program starts in July, and able to carry a simple conversation in Swedish.

II. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

SJÖLUNDÉN CAMP & SWEDISH ISLAND LANGUAGE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the general requirements listed above, it is the applicant's responsibility to:

- 1 - provide one letter of recommendation from a current teacher, counselor, or principal. The letter shall establish the applicant's classroom/campus attitude, study habits, and ability to adapt to camp environment. (A form letter posted on www.VasaDL15.org may be used by the person giving the reference.)
- 2 - submit an original, typed essay of 300-500 words on the subject
How the Camp experience can benefit my Nordic Heritage

If the applicant wins an award, s/he is required to:

- 1 - within six weeks of receiving the award provide evidence of health and accident insurance absolving the District Lodge of any liability during the camp and while traveling to and from the camp.
- 2 - provide receipts for travel costs to the District Secretary after the conclusion of the camp.

- 3 - within three months of concluding the camp mail an account of the Sjölundén/Swedish Island experience to the Scholarship Committee Chair. Photographs and drawings are also welcomed.

ELLEN BERGSTONE SCHOLARSHIP (Elderhostel)

It is the applicant's responsibility to:

- submit a brief description of the kind of Nordic related cultural program/-s in which you would like to participate and include for what purpose/-s you may want to acquire the new knowledge or skill offered in the program/-s attended.

If applicant wins an award, he or she is required to:

- within three months of concluding the program/-s mail an account of your participation to the Scholarship Chair. Photographs and drawings are also welcome.

**UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP, GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP,
MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP, VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

It is the applicant's responsibility to:

- 1 - provide a copy of applicant's most recent school transcripts. The transcripts may be included with the application in a *sealed* school envelope or mailed /e-mailed by the school *directly* to the Scholarship Chair on or before the application deadline.
- 2 - provide two letters of reference specifically denoting the applicant's scholastic ability, community involvement, and potential. The letters may be included with the application in *sealed* school envelopes or mailed /e-mailed by the reference providers *directly* to the Scholarship Chair on or before the application deadline. If the applicant has substantial work experience, one letter may be from a current or recent employer.
- 3 - submit a 2-3 page essay (double spaced) on one of the following topics (please include the title):

1. The role youth can and should play in Vasa

2. My vision of the future of Vasa

3. What Vasa means to me

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Award winners will be notified by February 1, 2020. All other scholarship applicants will receive a notification no later than February 11, 2020.

Please request application material and information from your Local Lodge secretary or download them from www.VasaDL15.org.

Please note that applications from more than one member of the same family are accepted, but only one scholarship will be awarded if there are other qualified applicants for the same scholarship.

Applicants who submit only one reference where two are required may receive lower scores on their application.

Awarded scholarships must be claimed within one year of date of award.

For details on payment of awards, please see the *Scholarship Offerings* page.

Application deadline: Application form, letter from Local Lodge Secretary, letter describing Lodge involvement, and letters of reference, essay, and transcripts **are due December 31, 2019**.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the entire completed application packet is submitted in time.

Questions? Please contact Scholarship Committee Chair Kin Lindgren at: scholarships@vasaDL15.org

GOOD LUCK!