



Scholarship Season – The Gates are Open!

By Stephanie Rodrigue, Louisiana, National High School Rodeo Foundation President

With the promise of embarking on the next chapter with cap, gown and diploma soon to be in hand, spring also marks the season of thoughtful consideration of possible career choices and scholarship applications, if the future holds post-secondary education as part of that next chapter. With the purpose of the National High School Foundation as an opportunity to partially fund any type of education after graduating high school, the time is now to begin plans to apply for one of typically well over 300 Foundation scholarships, ranging in value from \$500 to \$5000, if you are a qualifier to the National High School Finals Rodeo, this July 17th through the 23rd in Gillette, Wyoming, and in your final year of high school.

As an eighth grader moving from the Junior High to the High School division, there is also an opportunity for a \$1000 Academic Cowboy Scholarship and a \$1000 Academic Cowgirl Scholarship made possible through the generosity of Cinch, a longtime National Sponsor of the National High School Rodeo Association, and open to those eighth graders who qualify for the National Junior High Finals Rodeo this June 19th through the 25th in Perry, Georgia. The National High School Rodeo Foundation recognizes the remaining eight of the Top Ten Finalists with Foundation Scholarships.

As state and provincial finals wrap

up in the next several weeks, those Top Four National Qualifiers in each event will find the scholarship applications online at <https://nhsrfoundation.org/> and at <https://nhsra.com/>. In addition to the fillable forms that include important contact and basic rodeo information, there are a few other supporting documents required. At the time of submission at both the NJHFR and the NHSFR, official grades are required. NJHFR eighth grade qualifiers must submit a grade report, in the form of a transcript or report cards for grades 6, 7 and 8. NHSFR graduation senior qualifiers must submit a transcript for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Both scholarship applications require a listing of school, community and church activities, as well as any offices held and honors achieved. Finally, each of the two scholarship applications require responses to select questions.

All documentation submitted is required to be computer-generated, not hand-written. There is no hard copy of the application to pick up and complete once you get to the Finals. The application form must be accessed online, completed, then printed to place with other required documentation. This is a task that is intended to be done at home before you leave with appropriate attention paid to each component. Once at the Finals, there is no opportunity to use a computer or print any documents, including grades or transcripts, onsite.

It is very important that eighth grade applicants take note that the Cinch Academic Scholarship is awarded to an academic standout. Eighth grade qualifiers that are basically “Straight A Students” are encouraged to apply. This scholarship has been designed since its inception to honor students who excel in the academic arena with a nice balance of other activities, in addition to the sport of rodeo.

Both scholarships are due by 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday of the first performance. The NJHFR Cinch Academic Scholarship applications are due by Sunday, June 19, at 6:00 p.m., to the Gist Booth in the Trade Show. Gist is another longtime National High School Rodeo Association sponsor and provides the Gist Incentive Program to support Foundation Scholarships. The NHSFR Foundation Scholarship Program applications are due by Sunday, July 17, at 6:00 p.m., to the Foundation Office in Energy Hall.

The National High School Rodeo Association and the National High School Rodeo Foundation both encourage post-secondary education that continues after lockers are cleaned out and graduation caps are thrown. Those endeavors include various college degrees, as well as career certifications and licensures. All types of education after high school are supported and encouraged. Today's athletes in the rodeo arenas are tomorrow's leaders in the arenas of life. Apply for a scholarship to help pave that way! 🐾