



2017-18 Friends of the California State Fair

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### **Who is eligible to apply?**

The Friends of the California State Fair offers 14 categories of scholarships with varying eligibility requirements. Applicants may apply for one scholarship category of their choice per year. Applicants must meet **all** of the criteria for a specific scholarship to be an eligible candidate. The scholarship categories and requirements are below.

#### California State Fair Youth Assistants and Exhibitors

- Be one of the following:
  - Be a past participant (exhibitor) in the California State Fair from 2014, 2015, and 2016 in the competitive programs for youth (livestock, horse, small animal, dog, and still exhibits)
  - OR-
  - Have participated as a volunteer from 2014, 2015, and 2016 in the California State Fair Youth Task Force or the California State Fair Kaiser Permanente Farm Programs as a guide, intern or assistant either in preparation for the Fair, during the Fair or off season
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled at a four-year accredited college/university or community college in the state of California in the fall of 2017

#### Top 10 Percent of Class

- Be a current high school senior in the top 10 percent of your graduating class
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled at a four-year accredited college or university in the state of California in the fall of 2017

#### Sacramento Region Top Achiever

- Be a current high school senior
- Be recognized as a Sacramento Region Top Achiever (defined as the top 5 (five) percent of students in your graduating class)
- Be graduating from a school in one of these counties: Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sutter, Yolo, or Yuba County
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled at a four-year accredited college or university in the state of California in the fall of 2017

#### Art Major

- Have a declared program/major of Art. This can include, but is not limited to, visual arts, dance, music, film, etc.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled as a college sophomore, junior or senior in a four-year accredited college or university in the state of California in the fall of 2017

### Teacher Credential Program

- Be enrolled in a Teacher Credential Program or be an undergraduate Education major
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled as a college sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student in a four-year accredited college, university, or an accredited community college in the state of California in the fall of 2017 (re-entry professionals included)

### Viticulture or Enology

- Have a declared program/major of Viticulture or Enology
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled as a college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student in a four-year accredited college or university in the state of California in the fall of 2017

### Culinary Cooking or Hospitality Management or Event Planning

- Have a declared program/major of Culinary Cooking or Hospitality Management or Event Planning
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university, a California culinary specialty school, or an accredited community college in the state of California in the fall of 2017

### Agricultural Students (current college student)

- Have successfully completed 12 units of coursework credit in Agricultural classes
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled as a college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student in a four-year accredited college or university, or an accredited community college in the state of California in the fall of 2017

### Agricultural Students (high school senior)

- Plan to be an Agricultural Student in college
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be a current high school senior (or junior graduating in spring 2017) enrolling in a four-year accredited college or university, or an accredited community college in the state of California in the fall of 2017

### Blue Diamond International Scholarship

- Have an emphasis and interest in International Agricultural Trade, with a major of agriculture, economics, business, international studies, language studies, etc.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university, or an accredited community college in the state of California in the fall of 2017

### Business or Agricultural Business

- Have a declared program/major of Business or Agricultural Business
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID
- Be enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university, or an accredited community college in the state of California in the fall of 2017

### Trade School

- Be a current high school senior with a plan to enter an accredited trade school program in California in Fall 2017 or currently be enrolled in an accredited trade school program in California.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Be a California resident with a valid ID

### Western Fairs Association – owner/key staff's child or grandchild

- Be either the child or grandchild of the owners or key staff of a fair related business (service members) whose business had a minimum of five years of membership in Western Fairs Association (WFA)
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher
- Be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college, university, technical school, or community college in the fall of 2017

### Western Fairs Association – permanent staff's child or grandchild

- Be either the child or grandchild of the permanent staff of a Western Fairs Association (WFA) member fair for a minimum of five years
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher
- Be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college, university, technical school, or community college in the fall of 2017

*Please Note: Employees and immediate family members of employees and Board Directors of the California Exposition and State Fair, Friends of the California State Fair, the California State Fair Agricultural Council, Cultural Advisory Committee and the Ironstone Concours Foundation are not eligible for this program.*

**When is the application deadline?**

March 2, 2017 at 11:59 PM PST

**When is the recommendation deadline?**

March 2, 2017 at 11:59 PM PST

**Should I submit all of my information before I request a recommendation?**

No. You should request a recommendation as early as possible to insure there is sufficient time for the recommendation to be submitted by the deadline.

**What is the Program timeline?**

- Application Opens: November 15, 2016
- Application Deadline: March 2, 2017
- Scholarship Recipients Notified: by the end of April 2017
- Scholarship Checks Issued: in early August 2017

**What are the selection criteria?**

An independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the recipients considering:

- Community Service
- Academics
- Essay(s)
- Recommendations

*Decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.*

**What are the details of the award?**

- Each applicant may apply to one scholarship category. Scholarships ranging from \$1,000 - \$2,500 are awarded.
- Students may reapply each year as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- The scholarships will be applied to tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for course load at accredited, nonprofit two- or four-year colleges/universities, or trade schools in the United States (per individual scholarship requirements.)
- Students may transfer from one institution to another and retain the award.
- Eligible applicants may move forward to compete for the **Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship**.

**Is this scholarship renewable?**

No. These scholarships are not renewable.

**What are the details of the Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship?**

The top scholarship winners in select categories (if applicant's score is at least 95%) may be invited to compete for the overall \$5,000 Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship. Qualifying categories with more than twenty eligible applicants may submit the runner up scholarship winner for consideration as well (if the applicant's score is at least 95%.) The interviews will take place on Thursday, May 4, 2017 in Sacramento. This scholarship is not renewable.



### **Which scholarship categories are eligible for scholarship winners to compete for the Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship?**

Past Participants (exhibitors), Top 10 Percent of Class, Sacramento Region Top Achiever, Art Major, Teacher Credential Program, Viticulture or Enology, Culinary Cooking or Hospitality Management or Event Planning, Agricultural Students (current college student), Agricultural Students (high school senior), Blue Diamond International Scholarship, Business or Agricultural Business, Trade School.

### **Which school should I list on the application if I have not made a final decision?**

You should list your first choice on the application.

### **How do I change my college choice?**

You may update your final school choice on the **My Profile** page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net>. If you are chosen to receive an award, it will be your responsibility to make sure your college is updated at least 30 days prior to the check issue date stated in the award notification so your check can be issued accordingly. This will not update any application or acceptance forms; however, all awards are issued based on the **My Profile** page.

### **How do I know if my application is complete?**

Allow five to seven business days after uploading documents for your online status to update. You may monitor your status of your application on your home page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net>.

- **Not Started:** the form has not been requested or started.
- **Started:** the form has not been submitted and will not be considered.
- **Submitted:** the form has been submitted, but is not Complete.
- **Complete:** all required forms and attachments (if applicable) have been received and your application will be considered for the scholarship.

You may also monitor the status of your attachments and recommendations (if applicable).

- **Not received:** the attachment has either not been received or has been rejected.
- **Requested:** the form request has been created, but the form has not been started.
- **Processing:** the attachment has been received and is being reviewed.
- **Accepted:** the attachment has been verified and accepted by ISTS.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to monitor the progress of all application requirements to make sure the application is complete. The status **Complete** will display on the home page when all forms have been submitted and all documents have been verified.

### **I uploaded a document that no longer displays on my application. Do I need to submit it again?**

Previously uploaded documents that are no longer displayed with a status on the home page have been rejected. The most common reasons for a rejected document are as follows:

- The document uploaded is not one of the accepted file types: **.pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps**
- The document uploaded was not the document requested.
- Not all pages of the document were contained in the file.
- We cannot open the file. The file may be corrupted or password protected.

Refer to the upload section of your application for the details of the required documents and upload a new file that meets the criteria stated.



### **Where and when should I send my supporting documents?**

The required supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application by the application deadline. If you do not follow the upload instructions exactly, your application may not be considered. Documents that meet the criteria required for the scholarship application, and are uploaded by the deadline, will be processed and considered on time.

### **How do I upload more than one file at a time?**

You may create a .zip file containing more than one file as long as everything included is in an acceptable format (i.e. **.pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps**).

### **How do I create a .zip file?**

To use this format, follow the steps outlined below:

1. Create a new folder on your Desktop, name it the document type you will be uploading. For example, Test Scores, Transcript, or Financial Documentation.
2. Move all the pages you wish to upload into the new folder.
3. Right click on the document from your Desktop, select "Send to," followed by "Compressed (zipped) folder."
4. Your new **.zip** file will be located on your Desktop, ready to upload.

### **What is the difference between Official and Unofficial Transcripts?**

**Official transcripts** must be obtained through your high school administration office, or your college registrar office. These transcripts are normally printed on official letterhead and/or state that they are official. These may contain a signature.

*Note: Your official transcript may come to you in a sealed envelope, stating it will become unofficial if opened. When scanning or copying your official transcripts, a watermark may appear noting they are now unofficial. **Despite any watermarks or sealed envelopes, you may open the envelope if needed to upload the document. These documents will still be considered official for our purposes.** When scanning or copying, you do not need to include a copy of the sealed envelope.*

**Unofficial transcripts** may be accessed through your school's online student portal. These pages must still be converted to one of the acceptable file formats. There are free tools available that will allow you to save various documents (including web pages) as a PDF. Unofficial transcripts must contain your name and the school name and contact information.

### **What are the Dos and DON'Ts of uploading documents to my application?**

#### **DO:**

- Upload in the correct file format.
- Only upload the requested documents.
- Black out any Social Security numbers on the documents you are uploading. This is not required, but advised.
- Return to your Home page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net> to verify your documents have been accepted.



**DON'T:**

- Upload a **Microsoft Word™** document (.doc, .docx).
- Upload more than the requested documentation.
- Assume your documents are correct and accepted once you have uploaded them. Upload a document stating you are mailing your documents.
- Assume the required document does not pertain to you. If the application states the document is required, your application will remain incomplete if you do not provide that document.
- Password protect your uploaded documents. Password protected documents will be rejected.

**Where and when should I send my supporting documents?**

The required supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application by the application deadline. If you do not follow the upload instructions exactly, your application may not be considered. Documents that meet the criteria required for the scholarship application, and are uploaded by the deadline, will be processed and considered on time.

**How and when will I receive notification?**

- Notifications are sent to recipients and applicants not selected to receive an award **via email** by the end of April. For recipients, an **Acceptance** link will be displayed on the home page following the notification.
- Applicants who qualify for the Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship will be notified mid-late April, 2017. Interviews will take place on Thursday, May 4, 2017 in Sacramento, California. The winner of the Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship will be announced at the Gala (date tbd) in Sacramento, California.
- Add [donotreply@applyists.com](mailto:donotreply@applyists.com) and [contactus@applyists.com](mailto:contactus@applyists.com) to your email address book or “safe senders list” to ensure these important emails are not sent to your junk mail folder.
- **Do not ‘opt out’ of any email sent from [donotreply@applyists.com](mailto:donotreply@applyists.com) or [contactus@applyists.com](mailto:contactus@applyists.com). You may not receive vital information regarding your scholarship applications.**

*Note: Your email address will only be used to communicate with you about your scholarship applications or other opportunities administered by ISTS for which you may be eligible to apply. We will not provide your email address to any third-parties.*

**What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?**

You must enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the fall of the year in which the scholarships are awarded, continue the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by scholarship sponsor, deliver your scholarship check(s) to the proper office at your institution, and notify ISTS should your check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

**How and when are checks issued?**

Checks will be issued by mid-August to each recipient’s mailing address and made payable to the institution on the profile page.



**Are scholarships taxable?**

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition or textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against his or her scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance. You may also consult IRS Publication 970 for further information

(<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf>).

**Program Administration**

To ensure complete impartiality in selection of recipients and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

**Questions**

For additional information regarding the scholarship program [click here](#) or call toll free (855) 670-ISTS (4787). Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Central.

