

# STAR SCHOLARSHIP Eligibility Requirements

## Eligibility

A woman is eligible to be recommended for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship provided she:

- Exhibits excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success
- Has a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Is in the final academic year (senior year) of her secondary education and is 20 years of age or under at the end of the calendar year
- Is a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or Canada
- Plans to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in the United States or Canada, full-time or part-time, in the fall of the academic year following high school graduation
- Is recommended by and receives the vote of a local P.E.O. chapter

## Chapter Recommendation & Application Process

When a local chapter identifies a prospective applicant, the local STAR chairperson(s) interview to assess eligibility. A committee may review materials and recommendation is brought to the chapter for vote. If approved, the Star chairperson(s) submits the Chapter recommendation form online by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. The student profile, Student Activity Charts (2), original 1 pg (700 word max) essay, two references, and unofficial transcript must be submitted online by the applicant no later than 30 calendar days after the applicant received the link with instructions to set up her online account.



## Awards

Recipients will be announced annually by April 30. Notification letters will be sent to all applicants and recommending chapters. Recipient award certificates will be mailed to recommending chapters for presentation at a high school awards ceremony or other public forum.

## STAR Documents

- [STAR Scholarship Student FAQs](#) (PDF - updated 05/20)
- [STAR Scholarship Tips for Success](#) (PDF - updated 08/19)
- [STAR Policies & Procedures](#) (PDF - updated 03/20)

# STAR SCHOLARSHIP Eligibility Requirements

# **P.E.O. STAR Scholarship – sponsored by Chapter AF**

**DEADLINE to SUBMITT MATERIALS to Mrs. Larson\* is: **OCT. 1st****

(YES -WE HAVE HAD A PREVIOUS STAR RECIPIENT- STUDENT MYKALA ZOLA- 2019)

The PEO STAR Scholarship is a competitive one-time \$2500 award recognizing graduating high school women who demonstrate outstanding **leadership, academic achievement, involvement in extracurricular/co-curricular activities, and community service**, and plan to pursue full or part-time postsecondary education in the fall following their high school graduation. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required. **\*Applicants must be recommended by a P.E.O. Chapter.**  
**(\*Mrs. Larson can help you with that!)**

## Requirements:

- The applicant must supply “Two Student Activity Charts “- one listing Extracurricular Activities and the other for Community/Volunteer Activities.

(Activities should include a brief description, # of years of involvement, leadership roles and skills learned. See examples below.)

### Extracurricular Activities

Student Council- 3 years- Secretary 1 year- assisted and organized multiple school activities including Homecoming Week, Snowball dance, and more.

Learned much about time management and how to multitask as well as some building and decorating skills

### Community/Volunteer Activities

Volunteered for Grand Forks Childrens’ Choir 2 years and was hired to instruct and lead younger participants during my senior year. Learned compassion, and patience and how to work with both children and parents.

- Essay (Max 700 words) articulating possible career aspirations including post-secondary plans, and if applicable events that may have led to your decision.
- Two references with brief letter of recommendation (other than Mrs Larson- she will supply the PEO recommendation))
- High School transcript (unofficial transcript is OK)
- **Submit materials to Mrs. J Larson by OCTOBER 1st for review by P.E.O. Chapter AF scholarship committee**

If selected by P.E.O. Chapter AF they MUST vote and SUBMITT an online reference form BY Oct 15. Applicants will be sent an email with instructions to create your STAR online account. You will then complete the online Student Profile, and upload the above required information. (applicants under 18 will need parent’s or guardian release.)

**\*THE ONLINE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIVING THE EMAIL.**

Any questions contact Mrs Larson: —[jl Larson230@mygfschools.org](mailto:jl Larson230@mygfschools.org) or call 746-2407 ext 6814  
PEO STAR Scholarship RECIPIENTS, (and also the nominating chapter) **Will be Notified By April 30.**

# PEO STAR SCHOLARSHIP

## STUDENT STAR FAQs

### Topic Summary

#### APPLICATION ONLINE PROCESS

1. I understand the application is made online. What does this entail?
2. What are the components of the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship application?
3. Who may I contact if I have questions using the online application process?

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

4. What is the application deadline?
5. What is an unofficial transcript?
6. What is Cottey College?
7. My high school does not rank students. Will this disqualify me?
8. Does preference go to students with 4.0 GPAs?
9. May the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship be renewed?
10. Who determines how the \$2,500 scholarship funds are used?
11. If I am selected as a recipient, when may I expect to receive the scholarship funds?
12. When and how will I be notified whether I have been selected as a STAR Scholarship recipient?

#### RECOMMENDATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS

13. May I apply without a chapter's recommendation?
14. How do I find a chapter to recommend me?
15. May the chapter member who writes the chapter recommendation also write one of the references required for the scholarship application?
16. What advice can be given to reference writers?

#### QUALIFICATIONS

17. On what criteria are STAR recipients selected?

# STUDENT STAR FAQs

## APPLICATION ONLINE PROCESS

### **1. Q. I understand the application is made online. What does this entail?**

A. The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship application is an online submission. After your recommending chapter has completed and submitted a recommendation form online, you will be sent an email with instructions and a link to create your STAR online account. You will log into this account with the username and password you entered when creating the account. You will be able to complete the required forms, compose an essay, send emails requesting references and electronically submit everything to the P.E.O. Executive Office. Helpful instructions may be viewed and printed once you have logged into your account.

### **2. Q. What are the components of the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship application?**

A. The applicant will complete the online Student Profile Form. For applicants under the age of 18 on the date the application is submitted, the application form must contain a parent's or guardian's release. Online instructions are included for uploading documents. The applicant will also complete two Activity Charts – one for Extracurricular Activities and one for Community/Volunteer Service. Additionally, opportunities to note Awards and Honors as well as Honor Societies are included. The applicant lists and describes activities, number of years involved, leadership or other roles, and skills learned and developed. The applicant will write a 700-word essay articulating and discussing her possible career aspirations including higher education plans. Two references from persons who know the applicant well are required. The recommending chapter also writes a recommendation. The applicant must electronically submit her high school transcript – official or unofficial (through the 11th grade/junior year) as part of the online application. (Canadian applicants must include their provincial conversion grading scale.) Forms and instructions are available once the applicant has established an online account. READ the instructions for completing these field sets

### **3. Q. Who may I contact if I have questions using the online application process?**

A. For computer/technical questions, send an email request by clicking on the Contact Us link located in the upper right-hand corner of the online screens of the application program. You will receive an email response from the user support desk in 24 to 48 business hours. Questions regarding the STAR Scholarship should be addressed to your recommending chapter or to the STAR Scholarship project supervisor at 515-255-3153.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **4. Q. What is the application deadline?**

A. Each applicant has 30 calendar days to complete and electronically submit her application from the date the link is sent to her from the STAR Supervisor to establish her online account. This will be done after a chapter has electronically submitted an online recommendation form. At that point, their applicant is emailed a link to set up an online account. The applicant has ONLY 30 days from this date to complete and submit her online application, including the two references and high school transcript – official or unofficial – (through the 11th grade/junior year). Canadian applicants must also include their province conversion grading scale. Instructions are accessible once the applicant has set up her online account. On the 30th day, applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST). This deadline is firm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **5. Q. What is an unofficial transcript?**

A. An unofficial transcript is a transcript that has not been made official by a signature, stamp or seal. You may submit either an official or unofficial transcript with your online application. Submit whichever form of transcript your high school will release to you that you can electronically submit with your online application. Do not mail your transcript to the P.E.O. Executive Office. STAR Scholarship application online instructions explain how to upload your transcript.

### **6. Q. What is Cottey College?**

A. Cottey College is an independent liberal arts and sciences college for women in Nevada, Missouri, owned and operated by the P.E.O. Sisterhood since 1927. Cottey College offers two-year and four-year degree programs. Click on the Cottey College link on the P.E.O. website for additional information or go to: [www.cottey.edu](http://www.cottey.edu).

### **7. Q. My high school does not rank students. Will this disqualify me?**

A. No. Class rank is not a requirement for eligibility, but it is helpful to know the general size of your high school class.

### **8. Q. Does preference go to students with 4.0 GPAs?**

A. No. Applicants for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship are evaluated on demonstrated excellence in the areas of leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community/volunteer service and potential for future success. An applicant selected as a STAR Scholarship recipient will have shown excellence in all five areas. The minimum GPA eligibility requirement is an unweighted 3.0. An applicant with a 3.0 GPA has the same chance for selection as an applicant with a 4.0 GPA, so long as all other evaluated areas are equal.

### 9. Q. May the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship be renewed?

A. No. This is a one-time scholarship that must be used during the academic year the scholarship is received. If you plan to take a gap year, you will not be eligible for funding and should not apply.

### 10. Q. Who determines how the \$2,500 scholarship funds are used?

A. The recipient and her family will decide whether the student will directly receive the scholarship or whether the scholarship will be sent to her institute of higher learning, as well as how the funds will be used. The student and her family should be aware that if the scholarship is used other than for tuition, fees, books, required course supplies, or other college expenses, the funds may become reportable income for tax purposes. The student and her family should consult a tax professional if there are questions regarding uses of the funds.

### 11. Q. If I am selected as a recipient, when may I expect to receive the scholarship funds?

A. No scholarship money is released before August. To trigger the release of funds, each recipient will be sent the Acceptance of Educational Aid form and the Confirmation of Enrollment form. Each form must be completed and submitted to the stated address, following form instructions, prior to scholarship money being released. If the recipient has elected to receive the money directly, one half of the scholarship will be mailed in the fall semester following the receipt of the Confirmation of Enrollment form. The second half of the scholarship will be sent early in the spring semester following the receipt of the second Confirmation of Enrollment form which has a January 31 deadline. Scholarships sent to the student's institution of higher learning will typically be divided by the institution into two parts and applied to the fall and spring semesters. It is the recipient's responsibility to make sure the Confirmation of Enrollment is sent by her college to the P.E.O. Executive Office by the stated deadline(s).

### 12. Q. When and how will I be notified whether I have been selected as a STAR Scholarship recipient?

A. By **April 30** every applicant will have been notified by email whether she has been selected as a P.E.O. STAR Scholarship recipient.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS**

### 13. Q. May I apply without a chapter's recommendation?

A. No. An application received without the recommendation of a chapter is incomplete and will not be evaluated.

### 14. Q. How do I find a chapter to recommend me?

A. Visit [www.peointernational.org](http://www.peointernational.org), the official P.E.O. website and click on Contact Us link located at the top of the page and fill in the requested information. Ask women with whom you are acquainted if they are P.E.O.s or if they know women who belong to P.E.O. Ask at your church, school and extracurricular activities. Ask your high school counselor whether anyone from a P.E.O. chapter has visited the school regarding the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship or Cottey College. Once you find a member, tell her you are interested in applying for the STAR Scholarship and would like to speak with the chapter members. If that chapter is already recommending a student for the scholarship, ask the members for help in connecting you to another chapter.

### 15. Q. May the chapter member who writes the chapter recommendation also write one of the references required for the scholarship application?

A. No. Two references are required in addition to the chapter recommendation. There should be three separate writers. An applicant who submits a reference written by the same person who wrote the chapter recommendation is one short. That application is incomplete and will not be evaluated. RELATIVES MAY NOT WRITE REFERENCES OR THE CHAPTER RECOMMENDATION.

### 16. Q. What advice can be given to reference writers?

A. The references selected should know you very well and project who you are in real life – your character, your talents, your promise for the future. Encourage references to personalize their references rather than simply cut and paste a college recommendation.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### 17. Q. On what criteria are STAR recipients selected?

A. Selections are based on the evaluation of the published criteria. The merit of the application drives the selection. The successful applicant will have clearly presented her academic achievement (unweighted 3.0/4.0 GPA minimum), demonstrated leadership, extracurricular involvement, community/volunteer service, and potential for future success in an organized and thorough manner within her application. She will also have written a well-organized essay regarding possible career aspirations, including higher education goals. She will further have chosen two references who have written outstanding recommendations, specific to her, clearly delineating her achievements and contributions according to the published criteria. The successful applicant has taken the time to extend her best effort in applying for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship.