



College Scholarship Program
2018 General Information

*A college scholarship program
designed to honor the commitment
and achievements of students of
The First Tee of Raritan Valley*

12/21/2017

Overview

The First Tee of Raritan Valley (TFTRV) has created a college scholarship program designed to both encourage and support children who actively participate in its programs. This document provides applicants information about the program.

TFTRV provides youth with educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. It is a chapter of the international program The First Tee, which, since its founding in 1997, has introduced the game of golf and its inherent values to more than ten million young people.

TFTRV has helped shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by teaching them values such as integrity, respect and perseverance through the game of golf. In addition to learning the fundamentals of the golf swing and the game, our character education and life skills programs help young people prepare for success in high school, college and life.

Our chapter's geographic area covers the New Jersey counties of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Warren and Union.

Our youth leadership and curriculum focus on helping young people manage emotions, set goals, resolve conflict, and communicate effectively. TFTRV applies as a foundation for all of this instruction The First Tee Nine Core Values and the Nine Healthy Habits:

Nine Core Values	Nine Healthy Habits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honesty• Integrity• Sportsmanship• Respect• Confidence• Responsibility• Perseverance• Courtesy• Judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• Play• Safety• Vision• Mind• Family• Friends• School• Community

TFTRV has established a record of success with its programs, consistently ranking among the the best chapters in the country. As part of this evolution, TFTRV has started a college scholarship opportunity for the individuals who have matriculated through our programs. A college scholarship program is a natural extension of TFTRV mission, and should serve as both an incentive and a reward to the students we serve.

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In early 2014 the Red Hoffman Cup Matches (HCM), a private golf competition in NJ, approached TFTRV board to establish funding and help implement an annual college scholarship program for high school seniors who have been engaged in TFTRV programs. The Board of TFTRV accepted this generous offer and has laid out the program with the assumption that this program will continue indefinitely.

A total of six scholarships (two per year) have been presented since 2015. All six scholarship recipients earned a high school grade point average that approached or eclipsed 4.00; all six were captains of their respective high school golf teams; and three are still competing on their college golf teams. Importantly, each reached the highest level of achievement with The First Tee, excelling in both its character development program and as golfers.

We expect our 2018 scholarship recipients to follow in the same traditions and standards as our earliest recipients.

Scholarship Description

The objective of The First Tee of Raritan Valley College Scholarship Program is to recognize and reward TFTRV graduating seniors who:

- Have distinguished themselves as part of TFTRV's program
- Embody the ideals that The First Tee strives to impart to its students.

The scholarship is a one-year only grant that will be presented annually to one or more TFTRV students who are deemed by the Scholarship Selection Committee (SSC) to meet or exceed the selection criteria. The scholarship amount awarded to each recipient will be determined by the SSC according to:

- The applicant's qualifications
- The total number of applicants
- The amount of scholarship funds available each year.

Applicants will apply in the first quarter of every calendar year for the upcoming school year.

The scholarship is presented in the spring of each year to a graduating high school student who is planning to attend an accredited college in the fall of that academic school year.

Scholarship amounts may vary year to year, but 1) will be for a single year duration only; and 2) may change as the program develops. The scholarships awarded in 2017 were for \$3000 per student. The recommended total scholarship amount to be awarded for 2018 will be determined and allocated as the Scholarship Selection Committee determines in its sole discretion.

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Criteria for Application and Selection

As noted above, the objective of TFTRV College Scholarship Program is to recognize and reward TFTRV graduating high school seniors who have distinguished themselves as part of our First Tee program, and who embody the ideals that The First Tee strives to impart to its students.

Applicants who meet the following qualifications will be eligible to be considered for the 2018 TFTRV College Scholarship. Applicants must:

- Currently enrolled in TFTRV Life Skills Experience
- Have actively participated in The First Tee of Raritan Valley's programs for at least three years
- Have reached Eagle or Ace levels of performance
- Maintain a minimum high school 3.25 grade point average (on a 4-point program), or equivalent
- Have demonstrated leadership in both their scholastic and The First Tee activities
- Have a demonstrated need for financial (specifically tuition) support
- Anticipate attending full time as an undergraduate at an institution of higher education accredited by the U.S. Department of Education
- Timely submit a complete application, including all information, essays and signatures / certifications.
- Be scheduled to graduate from high school in the spring of 2018 and must be planning to start college in the fall of 2018.

A submission will not be reviewed unless each of these criteria has been met.

Additional Selection Information

Once applicants have met the basic criteria outlined above, the SCC will give extra focus to the following criteria in its selection process: 1) academic record; 2) leadership achievements and 3) participation in TFT/TFTRV programs and events.

Applicants will be provided the opportunity to submit up to two letters of recommendation from individuals of their choice. These letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the person doing the recommending by email to mmccabe@thefirstteerv.org or, in hardcopy, to The First Tee of Raritan Valley home office (1 Golf Drive, Kenilworth, NJ 07033) no later than February 15, 2018, where they will be added to the applicant's application package. Letters of recommendation arriving after February 15 will not be considered.

Scholarship finalists may have received or may be in contention for other college scholarships or financial aid, including from The First Tee, which the SSC also may consider in making its

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awards. Scholarship awards will be sent directly to the colleges selected by our scholarship recipients.

TFTRV reserves the right to revoke a College Scholarship for behavior inconsistent with The First Tee's Core Values after an award has been made, but prior to entering college. If such behavior comes to the attention of any member of TFTRV's Board of Directors or Staff, it will be taken under consideration by the SSC.

Application Process

TFTRV College Scholarship Program will require applicants to submit:

- A fully completed TFTRV College Scholarship Program application form, including all information requested, essays, acknowledgments and certifications.
- Their high school transcripts (unofficial copy is fine)
- Their college placement (i.e., SAT and /or ACT) test scores (a printed copy is fine).

Submissions must be received by February 15, 2018, at the office of The First Tee of Raritan Valley (1 Golf Drive @ The Learning Center, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07023); www.thefirstteerv.org; 908-245-1120.

In addition, the SCC will interview each finalist. It will be the SCC sole discretion to determine the number of awardee(s) based on the quality and quantity of the the top applicants presented.

The following schedule applies to the 2018 scholarship award process:

- **January 5** – Scholarship info and application process will be uploaded to the web site: www.thefirstteerv.org. TFTRV will inform all TFTRV students and their parents of this opportunity.
- **January 5 to February 15** – Students will respond to the call for applications, with a deadline response of February 15. The application can be sent through email, by regular mail or delivered personally, as indicated on the application form.
- **February 16-23** – The SSC will determine the Finalists.
- **March 3** – TFTRV SSC will interview each Finalist during this time frame.
- **By March 9** – Scholarship winners will be notified.
- **March /April** – Scholarship winners will attend scholarship award announcements, location to be determined.
- **By July 1** – Scholarship will be sent to the student's designated college.