



***The First Tee Scholars Program
Frequently Asked Questions
FALL 2009***

1. ***What is The Scholars Program?*** – The Scholars Program began in 2001 with the generosity of Dr. William Crouch, president of Georgetown College, and his offer of two full scholarships to participants of The First Tee. Since then, the Program has evolved into one of the most important initiatives of The First Tee. The designation of Scholar can be used to qualify for scholarships and special opportunities. See the document called "Scholars Program & Scholarship Opportunities" for a full description.
2. ***Who is eligible to become a Scholar?*** – Only participants enrolled in The First Tee Life Skills Experience and certification process who are entering their senior year of high school and are Birdie certified are eligible to submit an application. Applicants must be active and registered in the home office database for at least two years (December 2007 or earlier). Please refer to question 4 for a more detailed list of program requirements.
3. ***I have not been registered with The First Tee for two years because my Chapter has not been open for two years. Can I still apply to The Scholars Program?*** – The best way to ensure that a potential Scholar can demonstrate the Nine Core Values, has a mastery of the Life Skills, and is truly committed to The First Tee programs, is to have been enrolled in the Life Skills Experience for at least two years. Chapters must have been established prior to December 2007 in order to qualify to send applications to The Scholars Program. This is an essential requirement and the Chapter and Participant databases will be used to verify the applicant's length of time in the program.

4. ***What are the specific eligibility requirements of The First Tee Scholars Program?***

A. Academic

- Completion of a competitive course of study during high school
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in core curriculum
- Minimum score of 425 on each of the three parts of the SAT and/or a minimum score of 18 on the ACT
- Excellent writing skills as evidenced by the quality of the applicant's personal essay
- A current transcript and high school profile must be provided with the completed application (this can be obtained from a Guidance Counselor)
- A recommendation from a current teacher in a core curriculum subject

B. Character, Leadership, Chapter and Community Participation

- Evidence of leadership positions held
- Involvement in Chapter activities, such as mentoring, at the time of application
- Evidence of responsible citizenship through meaningful involvement in community or civic activities

C. The First Tee Participation

- Registered and active in The First Tee database at the home office
- Involved as a participant in The First Tee program at time of application
- Enrollment in The First Tee for at least two years prior to application (December 2006 or earlier)
- Minimum Life Skills level of Birdie certified in The First Tee
- Completion of The First Tee Scholars Program Application and submission of all components prior to published deadline (October 20, 2009 postmark)

5. ***I meet all of the minimum requirements including my GPA and test scores. Does that mean I am guaranteed the designation of Scholar?***

No, applicants to the Scholars Program are evaluated on their complete application package, not merely GPA and test scores. The three components listed above are all very important aspects that make you who you are!

6. ***What documents do I need to submit in order to have a completed application?*** – You will need to download, type, save and print the following documents from The First Tee web site:

- a. 2009 Scholars Program and Scholarship Opportunities
- b. 2009 Application (Available August 24 – October 20, 2009)
- c. 2009 Teacher Recommendation (can be sent via e-mail)

Please read all documents thoroughly prior to beginning the application. Pay close attention to the suggestions regarding who

can fill out your teacher recommendation, essay length requirements, and the appearance of your application. The application must be typed as this is the only way the committee can fairly assess your work, versus the other applicants. Be sure to read and sign the Certification, Model Release, Statement of Understanding, and NCAA Disclaimer forms found at the end of the application. The fall 2009 postmark deadline is October 20, 2009. Be sure to make a copy of all documents before mailing them to the home office.

An application is considered complete when the following documents have been submitted, postmarked on or before October 20, 2009:

- 2009 Application, including essay and signed forms mentioned above
- Teacher Recommendation
- Official high school transcript
- Copies of standardized test scores
- Copy of an original, graded creative writing sample
- High school profile

7. ***Who determines which applicants become Scholars?*** – The Scholarship Advisory Committee is a group of individuals with a level of expertise in the academic, business and golf industries. They meet once per year to designate the upcoming class of Scholars and to discuss Program initiatives and policies.
8. ***What is a Leadership Scholarship?*** – Leadership Scholarships are institutional-based scholarships offered only by participating colleges and universities in The First Tee Scholars Program. These are NOT full-ride scholarships and not all scholarships are available each year. The value of these scholarships varies by school and range from a fixed dollar amount to full tuition, room and board. Some schools provide scholarship awards constituting the difference between the yearly tuition (and other costs) and the amount received in other forms of financial aid (e.g. government grants and other scholarships) for which the student is able to qualify. These are also known as “gap” scholarships. Some schools put a “maximum amount allowed” on gap scholarships.

All students designated The First Tee Scholar are eligible for Leadership Scholarships offered by any partnering institution. However, these scholarships may not be available every year due to current Scholar attendance. **Neither The First Tee Scholars Program application nor Scholar designation are intended to substitute for, nor bypass, the admissions process of any college or university in**

the program. Applicants must satisfy the admissions criteria of any participating school(s) to which admission is sought. Applicants must consult the relevant admissions materials to determine the minimum SAT/ACT scores, GPAs and other requirements of the partnering institutions. The schools' web sites are the best way to receive the most current information. The First Tee web site has links to all partnering institutions' web sites. The partnering schools will select Leadership Scholarship recipients from among the admitted Scholar applicants.

9. ***What is a Named Scholarship*** - Named Scholarships are funds received either in honor or memory of someone, or have been donated by individuals or corporations. These scholarships are worth \$2,500 per year and are renewable for four years (\$10,000 total) assuming the student continues to meet the school's criteria for merit scholarships. The funds are paid directly to the institution of the recipient's choice. Named Scholarships are reserved for the top few students in each class of Scholars. The committee awards these funds based both on the criteria for each scholarship, as well as the applicants' individual merits. There is no separate application process. The scholarships are awarded at the same time the Class of Scholars is designated by the committee. See www.thefirsttee.org for a description of all Named Scholarships.
10. ***What is the difference between a Leadership Scholarship and a Named Scholarship?*** - The biggest difference between Leadership and Named Scholarships is that named funds are valued at \$10,000 or more over a four year period and can be used at ANY accredited institution in the U.S. Leadership Scholarships are offered only by a specific group of partner institutions and can be applied only to the cost of attending that specific institution.
11. ***How can I find out more information about the schools that offer Leadership Scholarships?*** – On The Scholars Program section of The First Tee web site, see the document called “Participating Colleges and Universities”. Click on the link to view the current list of schools. There is a link to each school's individual web site in that document. There, you can find out information concerning admission requirements and tuition, as well as other costs associated with attendance. For more detailed information on a particular school, including institutional-based Leadership Scholarship commitments to The First Tee Scholars

Program, contact Trish Lange, The First Tee senior coordinator, scholastic opportunities at tlange@thefirsttee.org.

12. ***What is required of designated Scholars while they are in college?*** – All designated Scholars of The First Tee are required to maintain accurate contact information, especially e-mail addresses, with The First Tee home office. All Scholars must sign and uphold The First Tee Code of Conduct. Each summer, Scholars receiving Named Scholarships must submit current transcripts and resumes of activities. Any Scholar not fulfilling this request will put all scholarships received through The First Tee in jeopardy. Named Scholarship recipients are required to keep in contact with the donor of his or scholarship.
13. ***When will the Class of 2010 be announced?*** – Letters will be mailed to all applicants before December 15, 2009. The list of designated Scholars will be posted on the web site on December 15th as well.
14. ***How can I learn more about The Scholars Program?*** – Information on The Scholars Program can be accessed on the First Tee web site, under Programs, or by calling (904) 940-4300 and asking for Trish Lange, senior coordinator, scholastic opportunities. Also, the Executive Director of your local Chapter should be able to answer many of your questions.