

IBPF January 2011
News Letter

Hello fellow IBPF members, I'm writing to you this month specifically about the new scholarship program. Now before you decide to skip reading this because you somehow think this "doesn't apply" to you let me take a few lines to answer the question, "What can I do?"

First, consider your immediate family. While high school and college age students are pretty obvious candidates let me remind you. There are no age limitations on the scholarship so even a middle-age person returning to school would qualify.

Second, consider your extended family. Nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren and other relatives may be pursuing post high school education. Let the parent or guardian of these candidates know that a \$26 membership could easily result in a \$250 scholarship which is an incredible return on their investment.

Third, consider all families you know. It's literally impossible for a family to be aware of all the scholarship opportunities that exist. Just letting them know about this one might be all it takes.

Finally, regardless of who the individual is, you can make a difference in their future. Encourage them to participate, recommend them to an IBPF board member so that we can encourage them to participate or reach out to them by buying their IBPF membership as a gift. In the grand scheme of things \$26 is a small price to pay when investing in someone's future.

Here is a brief review of the programs main features. Eligibility includes that the participant or their guardian be an IBPF member, that an essay be completed and that said essay be turned in to the board of directors by March 1st. The essay is based on the participants interpretation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the IBPF. Scholarship winners will be selected at the spring IBPF meeting. And the scholarship winners will receive a minimum of \$250. Complete details about the program can be found on our website www.iowablackpowderfederation.net by clicking on the scholarship sub-title.

Now a few important comments about the essay. I've talked to a few high school Guidance Counselors and they all say the same thing. That students often don't know how to begin writing essays and they are intimidated by the competition. They figure that they can't possibly write well enough to win anyway, so why bother? Well it's up to us to remind them that \$250 is worth the bother and to help eliminate the feelings of intimidation. I think a good confidence builder would be to tell the person writing the essay something like this, "While the writer needs to be familiar with the IBPF's Preamble to the Constitution, the essay is more about the person writing it. We want to know about the author, their thoughts, their beliefs and their ideas. Think of the essay as writing about yourself, something you know more about than anyone else". That message should help build confidence. We should further encourage the person to go online as there are many sites available to help with scholarship essays. How to start the essay, how to transform your thoughts into written words, how to arrange segments of the essay in the correct order, ECT. There are essay tips, examples, sample outlines and everything needed to direct the completion of the document.

Regarding the level of competition with other essay writers I offer this. The funding for this program comes from our raffles as well as donations made specifically towards the scholarship program. As such it is within reason to expect that multiple scholarships will be awarded. Please do not perceive this as a guarantee of payment. I just want all potential candidates out there to know that the likelihood of being awarded a scholarship is higher than you may think. Another thing to keep in mind is that the scholarship amount is "a minimum of \$250" which means that in the event of low participation the actual amount could be more.

As board members of the IBPF our intent for this program was to do something for the youth of our organization, for those seeking higher education and for our members. We want to provide a way to give something back that is both meaningful and useful. We are proud of what we've accomplished, excited about our future and eager to give a "hand up" to anyone interested.

A final thought about the program. As members we are the funders of this program and as such share a fundamental responsibility to promote participation. The program's success or failure depends on us. If you know someone that qualifies please initiate contact with them. In the end they will be grateful that you took the time, that you demonstrated an interest in them, that you cared about them.

Thanks, good luck and I hope you enjoy the next few months as we prepare for another season of shooting comradely.

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PS: It's been nice to see (and hear) some of our non-board members attending the IBPF meetings. That kind of support provides a much more solid base for the decisions that are made and for the organization as a whole. So thank you to those that have participated & I hope to see that continue.

Iowa Black Powder Federation Scholarship Program

Eligibility;

1. Students should be graduating seniors.
2. Students must be pursuing a degree at an accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Junior College, Community College, Technical College, College or University).
3. Students are not required to have previously or currently participated in the black powder shooting sports.
4. Students must submit an essay based on their interpretation of the “Preamble to the Constitution of the Iowa Black Powder Federation” and associated Constitution.
5. Student and/or student’s legal guardian are not required to live in Iowa but must be a current member of the Iowa Black Powder Federation in good standing.
6. Students must submit completed essays to a member of the Iowa Black Powder Federation board of directors by March 1.
7. Members of the Iowa Black Powder Federation board of directors and their families are eligible to participate in this program.

Essay;

1. Write a brief essay as previously outlined. Essay should be type-written, dated and should not exceed two pages.
2. The Preamble to the Constitution of the Iowa Black Powder Federation can be found in our hand-out leaflet and on our website at www.iowablackpowderfederation.net.
3. Please also include the following information: Your name, address, a phone number you can be reached at, your high school graduation date and your college preference.

Selection Process;

1. At the annual spring Iowa Black Powder Federation meeting (generally held during the month of March) all scholarship program essays will be presented to the board of directors.
2. At the meeting the board of directors will review submitted essays and select a winner that meets the eligibility requirements.

Scholarship Amount;

Each scholarship winner will receive a minimum of \$250.00.

Disbursement of Funds;

Students may use their scholarship at any accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Junior College, Community College, Technical College, College or University). The money must be used for tuition, books, fees and housing. The Iowa Black Powder Federation will work with the student and the college financial aid officer in determining the payee when the check is issued. This will ensure the greatest benefit to the recipient and avoid violation of eligibility requirements. This is a one-time award for one year.

Presentations;

A member of the Iowa Black Powder Federation board of directors or appropriate designee will officially present the scholarship award to the winner.