

**2018 Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games  
Highland Dance Scholarship**

**Rules & Information**

- One \$250 scholarship and one \$100 scholarship will be awarded by the SMSF&G to a student of Highland Dance.
- For a dancer to be considered for the scholarship, he/she must: have a minimum of two years' training in Highland Dance, be registered to compete in the Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games Highland Dance Competition by April 20, 2018, and be instructed by a Highland Dance instructor who is certified by one of the recognized examining bodies.
- For an entry to be considered, the entry must be complete and (1) include the completed application form and essay; (2) teacher recommendation form, which must be sent separately by the teacher; and (3) all portions postmarked by April 20, 2018.
- Complete, timely and eligible applications will be considered by a scholarship committee, which is intentionally comprised of individuals who are **not** involved with Highland Dancing. The Organizers of the Highland Dance competition are **not** involved with any decision-making relating to the winner of the scholarship. Decisions of the scholarship committee are final and will be based on the applicant's spirit, passion, commitment & dedication to Highland Dance, demonstrated proficiency, anticipated development as noted by his/her teacher, future goals and ability to overcome obstacles and learn from them. The scholarship committee is not necessarily looking to award the scholarship to the "best" dancer, but is looking for dancers who love what they do, are committed to the art form and work towards being the "best dancer they can be"—regardless of how they place at competitions.
- The scholarship is open to any person regardless of race, creed, or gender. Dancers of any age are eligible for this award.
- Teacher Input: Input from your current teacher is a necessary and required part of this application. If you have been with your current teacher for less than one year, submit information from your prior instructor. The Instructor Input Form addresses the length of time the applicant has studied with the teacher, the applicant's skill level, progress made this year, proficiency and guidelines for additional comments. No application will be considered without the instructor recommendation, which must be postmarked by April 20, 2018 to be eligible for consideration by the committee.
- An email will be sent to applicants once all portions of the application have been received—including teacher recommendation.
- The winner of the scholarships will be announced during the awards presentation for the winner's category—if a winner is a Primary, Beginner or Novice dancer, the scholarship will be presented with the morning awards and if a winner is an Intermediate or Premier dancer, the winner will be presented as part of the afternoon awards ceremony.
- Those who have won the scholarship during the previous 3 years (2015, 2016 and 2017) are not eligible for the 2018 scholarship award.
- A check will be made payable to the recipient's Highland Dance instructor (who must be a member of one of the recognized examining bodies) and is to be used for the winner's continued dance instruction.
- All scholarship forms, essays, teacher letter, etc. should be mailed to:

Kathryn Walker  
SMSF&G Scholarship Competition  
2408 Belmont Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37212

**2018 SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES  
HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOLARSHIP DANCER APPLICATION**

Please complete the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (parent's email if under age 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been training in Highland Dance? \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of your current Highland Dance teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you studied with this teacher? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have been with your current teacher for less than one year, with whom and for how long did you study with your previous teacher? \_\_\_\_\_

In what category do you currently compete? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours *outside* of class do you practice Highland Dance each week? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours of Highland Dance lessons do you take each week? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your immediate objective with Highland Dance this year? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your future goal with Highland Dance? \_\_\_\_\_

What other Scottish cultural activities or Scottish performing arts do you participate in? \_\_\_\_\_

List events where you have volunteered your highland dance talents: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, address and phone number of the Highland Dance School/Dance Teacher you attend where the scholarship will be used: \_\_\_\_\_

**ESSAY PORTION:** Please write a short essay, 1-2 pages long, to help the committee get to know you. Please include why Highland Dancing is important to you and why you dedicate so much effort to Highland Dance. Include any special honors, awards, or personal accomplishments that you have attained this year; the number of competitions you entered last year and how you placed. Let the committee know of any challenges you have faced and overcome that have affected your Highland Dance experience. Please also include any events where you donated your talents as a Highland Dancer. This should not solely be a recitation of your awards, but rather an explanation of the importance of Highland Dance in your life.

## HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTOR RECCOMENDATIONS

### Teacher Recommendation Form Information

- All recommendations must be postmarked by April 20, 2018.
- No application will be considered without a completed Teacher Recommendation Form.
- You may submit completed recommendation forms for multiple students in one envelope.
- Please submit completed recommendation forms to:

Kathryn Walker  
SMSF&G Scholarship  
2408 Belmont Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37212
- In addition to submitting recommendation forms, you may also submit information regarding your school/classes as part of the scholarship application. It can be a print-out from your website or brochure. If you would like, you may prefer to send a brief description of your Highland Dance School and instruction. You can use this information for all your students entering the scholarship competition.
- If your student is awarded the scholarship, a check will be written for the amount of \$250.00 to you or your school of highland dance and must be used for that student's dance instruction.
- If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Walker at 615-202-1058 or [kwalker@bassberry.com](mailto:kwalker@bassberry.com).
- The Organizers of the Dance Competition are **not** involved in the decision-making for the Scholarship Competition.

**2018 SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES  
HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTOR RECCOMENDATION FORM**

Recommendation form for: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Dance School: \_\_\_\_\_

What Governing Body are you a member of? \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's competition category: \_\_\_\_\_

How long has student studied with you? \_\_\_\_\_

Does this student consistently practice outside of class? \_\_\_\_\_

Does this student consistently do his/her best in class? \_\_\_\_\_

What progress has this student made in the past year? (i.e. progressed from Beginner to Novice, learned all National dances, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please add any additional information that may assist the Committee, including comments on the dancer's commitment to Highland Dancing, how many hours spent in practice outside of class, regularity of attendance at class, love of Scottish culture, commitment to volunteering, demonstrated proficiency, spirit of sportsmanship, friendliness, etc. Please also discuss any obstacles that this dancer has had to overcome, such as physical, financial, schedule, health, etc.

You may include this information on the back of this sheet or submit additional paper.