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### Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarships

Scholarships have for nearly 100 years been at the core of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation's mission. Currently the Foundation supports scholarships through three programs:

- o The Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarships in partnership with Horatio Alger and TeamMates, funded by the Coronation and Scholarship Ball
- o The Ak-Sar-Ben Community College Scholarships, funded by the Ak-Sar-Ben Friends
- o The Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Scholarships, funded by the Purple Ribbon Auction as part of the 4-H Stock Show

### Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarships

Funded by the proceeds from the Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation and Scholarship Ball, the Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarship is a \$5,000 award payable over four years and is managed in partnership with the Horatio Alger Association. The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished American's Inc. awarded nearly \$7 million in college scholarships in 2010, making it the largest non-profit provider of need-based scholarships in the nation.

Beginning in 2012 the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation will be increasing their scholarship to \$6,000 a student. Matching colleges have agreed to increase their match creating an increase in the annual award to \$12,000.

### Ak-Sar-Ben Community College Scholarships

The Ak-Sar-Ben Community College Scholarship Program rewards outstanding and talented community college-bound high school seniors, current community college students and those planning to enroll. Students must be Heartland residents (Nebraska and western Iowa) who need financial help to realize their potential. Only eligible community colleges apply. Check with your financial aid office for a complete list.

A minimum of 10 scholarships will be awarded for the 2012-2013 academic year. Applications are due in the community college financial aid office by March 15, 2012. To download the 2012 Community College Application, [click here](#).

### 2011 Community College Award Recipients

Applicants must demonstrate the following criteria:

- o Leadership potential
- o Academic achievement
- o Desire to earn a degree financial need

### Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Scholarships

The Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show is part of Ak-Sar-Ben's River City Rodeo & Stock Show. The event is open to 4-H youth from a ten state region and concludes with the presentation of more than \$100,000 in scholarships and financial stipends being awarded each year. The scholarships are presented in number of show programs as well as those provided during the Ak-Sar-Ben Buyer's Club Purple Ribbon Auction. For more details on the 4-H Stock Show, [click here](#).

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# 2012 AK-SAR-BEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## INSTRUCTIONS

The Ak-Sar-Ben Community College Scholarship Program is funded by the Ak-Sar-Ben Friends Organization- a membership group from across the region that supports the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation mission. It was created to reward outstanding and talented community college-bound high school seniors, current community college students and those planning to enroll. Students must be Heartland residents (Nebraska and western Iowa) who need financial help to realize their potential.

### THE CRITERIA:

- Leadership potential
- Academic achievement
- Desire to earn a degree
- Financial need

**Applications are due in the community college financial aid office by March 15, 2012.**

### THE SCHOLARSHIP:

1. A minimum of 10 scholarships will be awarded for the 2012-2013 academic year.
2. The scholarship is a \$1,000 award for one-year of full-time study to be applied toward tuition, fees and books and is subject to review by Ak-Sar-Ben at the end of the fall term. The \$1,000 is paid in one installment, but is distributed in two \$500 installments through the college with the second payment dependent upon the student maintaining a 2.5 GPA and continuing to carry at least 12 hours.
3. Recipients must attend one of the community colleges in the Ak-Sar-Ben region (see list of eligible schools on page 2).
4. Each eligible community college in the Ak-Sar-Ben region is asked to submit up to six applications (if possible, three from graduating high school seniors and three from other students). **Your application must be submitted to the college financial aid office. Do not send your application directly to Ak-Sar-Ben.**

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

To apply for this award you must be:

- able to demonstrate financial need by submitting a complete, current Federal Student Aid Report (SAR)
- accepted for admission or enrolled at an eligible community college
- a United States citizen who is a resident of Nebraska or western Iowa (eligible Iowa counties listed on page 2)
- carrying a course load of at least 12 hours (or, as high school senior, planning to carry at least a 12-hour course load)

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Submit the following items, in order, to your community college's financial aid office:

1. Application Form
2. Essay
3. Two completed reference forms in sealed envelopes (community college will open and attach to form)
4. One copy of the front and back side of page one of a completed Federal Student Aid Report (SAR)
5. High school seniors only: a transcript of your high school grades through the Fall 2011 term

The items above are explained below:

**The Application Form.** All of your responses to the questions on the form must be written in the space provided. Do not attach a separate page.

**The Essay Questions.** The essay questions are designed to help the judges develop a sense of your interests, abilities, motivation and personal circumstances. You should provide enough information about yourself to help them evaluate your personal qualifications for this scholarship. Note the maximum length specified for the essay length.

**Two Reference Forms.** You are required to submit two completed reference forms: one personal (from an adult non-family member) and one from a teacher or instructor. Two reference forms have been included in this application packet, one titled "Instructor Reference Form" and one titled "Personal Reference Form." You must print or type your name on the forms, and give a form to each of your two references. Ask them to return their completed and signed reference statements in sealed envelopes to you. Do not open the sealed envelopes; this would invalidate the reference. The reference forms must be submitted (still sealed) to your community college financial aid office with your application.

**Federal Student Aid Report.** You must have completed a current Application for Federal Student Aid (SAR) in time for the results to be submitted with your application for this scholarship. This form is available on line: ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) or from your college financial aid office. Please submit the form AND the report. Check with the college financial aid office for further instructions.

**High School Transcript.** If you are currently a high school student, please include a certified original transcript of your high school grades through the Fall 2011 term.

## SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

Students must maintain a 2.5 overall GPA to qualify for the second-term renewal of their scholarship. Students must also continue as full-time students (at least 12 hours).

## RECIPIENT ACCOUNTABILITY

All recipients of Ak-Sar-Ben Community College Scholarships will be required to sign an agreement in which they pledge to use the scholarship grant only for expenses related to their education as defined by Ak-Sar-Ben, to provide Ak-Sar-Ben certain documentation of scholastic performance, and to supply to Ak-Sar-Ben any and all other information mandated by federal tax regulations.

## ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND IOWA COUNTIES:

**Community Colleges:** Central, Metropolitan, Mid-Plains, Nebraska Indian, Northeast, Southeast and Western community colleges in Nebraska, Little Priest Tribal College in Nebraska, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, and Iowa Western, Northwest Iowa, Southwestern Iowa and Western Iowa Technical community colleges in Iowa.

**Iowa Counties:** Adair, Adams, Audubon, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Harrison, Ida, Lyon, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Pottawattamie, Plymouth, Ringold, Sac, Shelby Sioux, Taylor, Union, Woodbury.

**Nebraska Counties:** All Nebraska counties are eligible.



# 2012 AK-SAR-BEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## APPLICATION

(Please print or type)

Submit one complete application packet to the community college you are applying to no later than March 15, 2012.

- (1) complete application form
- (2) essay
- (3) two letters of reference
- (4) one copy a complete, current Federal Student Aid Report (SAR)
- (5) transcript (high school seniors only)

### I. Personal Information

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip*

Home Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School or College	Mo. and Yrs. Attended	Graduation Date
_____	____, ____ to ____	_____
_____	____, ____ to ____	_____
_____	____, ____ to ____	_____

Name of community college you plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Program of college study/major field \_\_\_\_\_

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**II. Academics**

Class standing at end of first semester 2011-2012 school year

**Current High School students only:**

Class rank \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students in class \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative High School GPA (including Fall '2011 term) \_\_\_\_\_

**All Applicants:**

Admission Test Scores – List highest set of scores for either or both examinations (from any one test date).

ACT Score \_\_\_\_\_  
Composite

SAT Score \_\_\_\_\_  
Combined

**II. Financial**

Mother's occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Total 2011 Income \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Complete this line only if you will be a 2011 High School Graduate.)*

Father's occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Total 2011 Income \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Complete this line only if you will be a 2011 High School Graduate.)*

Guardian's occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Total 2011 Income \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Complete this line only if you live with a guardian rather than a parent.)*

Highest education level attained by parent or guardian:

Father \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Information pulled from the Application for Student Aid (SAR) Report:

Parent contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Pell Grant: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If applicable)*

**Your work history (most recent first)**

Position	Employer	Dates		Hours Per Week
		From	To	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Are you employed now? \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly income \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Who has responsibility for paying for your education? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members in your immediate family (include yourself). Please state the names and ages of all family members even those currently in college.

List any financial factors or special circumstances, which should be considered:

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List any scholarships or awards you have received at this point:

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Activities/Extracurricular Activities/Honors/Awards (past five years only, both school and non-school)**

Activity/Award	Yrs Involved	Hrs/Wk	#Wk/Yr
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**IV. Essay Question**

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Type your response to the following statement on a separate sheet. Please write your name at the top the page and attach to your application. Limit your response to each question to 250 typed words or less.

1. Write a short autobiography, tell us what we need to know about who you are and then tell us what you see yourself doing five years from now. Since many fine students will apply for this scholarship this is an opportunity to convince us that you are the best candidate and that this scholarship will ultimately help you achieve your goals.

The information stated above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If additional financial information is needed, I agree to provide my most recent income tax forms to the Ak-Sar-Ben Scholarship Committee for further review. I understand that misrepresentation of facts would result in the automatic cancellation of my scholarship if it were awarded.

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**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Ak-Sar-Ben is a civic organization that aims to leverage collective business leadership to build a more prosperous Heartland.  
Ak-Sar-Ben Community College Scholarships are funded by the Ak-Sar-Ben Friends Organization.

# 2012 AK-SAR-BEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PERSONAL REFERENCE FORM

## COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Name of Recommender \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETED BY THE RECOMMENDER:** Please assess the applicant named above to help us determine this candidate's qualification for an Ak-Sar-Ben Community College Scholarship. The contents of your statement will remain confidential. (Note that we ask you to return this form in a sealed envelope signed across the seal.)

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. We are looking to award scholarships to students that display strong leadership potential, academic achievement, a will to earn a degree and financial need. Please comment on each of these. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor's Name (Please print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Number

Please put this form in a sealed envelope, sign it across the seal and return this form by March 15, 2012 to the applicant.

Financial Aid Officer: Please stamp your name, college and address at the bottom of this reference form.

