



SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
2023 National Scleroderma Conference, Orlando, Florida – July 14-16, 2023

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Application Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2023– no later than 5 p.m. EST

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Completed applications along with the required financial documentation must be received by the National Office by 5 p.m. Eastern on Friday, March 31, 2023

Please submit applications via email to: rslikkers@scleroderma.org

If necessary, paper applications can be mailed or faxed to:

National Scleroderma Foundation
Attention: Scholarship Committee
300 Rosewood Drive, Suite 105
Danvers, MA 01923
FAX: (978) 777-1313

If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your application within five (5) business days of submitting it, please contact Randall Slikkers at rslikkers@scleroderma.org

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Scholarships are only available to the following individuals: adults living with scleroderma, children living with scleroderma, and parent / caregiver of minor children living with scleroderma.

Only one scholarship application will be accepted per family. Funds can only be used for one member of the family unless the application is for a minor child with scleroderma who must be accompanied by a parent and/or guardian. The scholarship would then be given to the minor child living with scleroderma and ONE parent and/or guardian.

APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Financial need.
- Thoroughness and thoughtfulness of answers to application questions.
- Consideration is given to applicants actively involved in National Scleroderma Foundation activities.
- Priority is given to applicants attending their first National Scleroderma Foundation Conference.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Total household income must fall on or under the following guidelines:

**This table reflects dollar amounts that are 300% above the Federal Poverty Guidelines*

Household Size	Maximum Total Income Level
1	\$43,740
2	\$59,160
3	\$74,580
4	\$90,000
5	\$105,420
6	\$120,840
7	\$136,260
8	\$151,680
each additional person, add	\$15,420

Applicants are given an opportunity to state any extenuating factors (i.e., costs of medical treatments) on the application for which they feel the committee should take under consideration.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDEES ONLY (NOT REQUIRED FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES)

Applicants are required to provide the following financial documentation necessary to verify the applicant's total household income: *Applications will not be considered without the documentation.*

- Most recent IRS Federal Tax Return(s) and/or a copy of most recent SSDI Annual Income Statement
- Spouse/Partner's recent IRS Federal Tax Return(s) and/or SSDI Annual Income Statement
- Other household family members' most recent IRS Federal Tax Return(s) and/or SSDI Annual Income Statement
 - *If married and filing separately, you must submit the tax return summaries for BOTH applicant and spouse.*
 - *If there are adults in your household other than a spouse who receives income, you must also provide their tax return and/or SSDI forms (summary page only). These documents must equal the total annual household income amount provided above. If the amounts are not equal, please provide an explanation.*
 - *Social Security numbers and dates of birth may be blocked out/redacted before submitting (redacted = XXXXXXXXXX).*

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD GUIDELINES

The number of scholarships awarded will depend on the availability of donations received to the scholarship fund and the number of qualified applications received. Award decisions made by the Scholarship Committee are final.

Full in-person scholarship awards Include the following:

- TRAVEL: Airfare or mileage reimbursement if driving to the conference
 - *Flights **must** be booked through the National Scleroderma Foundation's travel agency*
- HOTEL STAY: Two (2) nights only for Friday, July 14 and Saturday, July 15 at the Signia by Hilton Orlando
 - *To be booked by the National Scleroderma Foundation*
- CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Virtual scholarship awards Include the following:

- VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD NOTIFICATION

Notice of scholarship status will be sent to all applicants **via email in mid-April**. Please be sure to include a valid email address on the application form.



Scholarship Application

2023 National Scleroderma Conference – Orlando, Florida July 14-16, 2023

Application Deadline: March 31, 2023

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

The National Scleroderma Foundation respects your privacy. All information provided on this application is strictly CONFIDENTIAL and will not be shared with anyone other than the Scholarship Review Committee.

APPLICANT INFORMATION *If completing by hand, please print legibly.*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Primary Phone #: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Are you a person living with scleroderma? YES NO If yes, please check type: Localized Form Systemic Form

Are you a juvenile? (5-17 years of age): YES

Are you a parent/guardian of a child living with scleroderma? YES NO

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

I, _____ (*first and last name*), hereby certify that I require financial assistance to attend the 2023 National Scleroderma Conference. My **total annual household income** is approximately \$_____ and the total number of people living in my household who depend on this income (including myself) is _____ people (#___ children; #___ adults).

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDEES ONLY (NOT REQUIRED FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES)

I have included the following required financial documentation:

- Most recent IRS Federal Tax Return(s) and/or a copy of my most recent SSDI Annual Income Statement
- Spouse/Partner's recent IRS Federal Tax Return(s) and/or SSDI Annual Income Statement
- Other household family members' most recent IRS Federal Tax Return(s) and/or SSDI Annual Income Statement

- *If married and filing separately, you must submit the tax return summaries for BOTH applicant and spouse.*
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- *Social Security numbers and dates of birth may be blocked out/redacted before submitting (redacted = XXXXXXXXXX).*

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE

I request the following level of assistance

(please check one from each column that applies to your particular circumstance):

Level of Assistance:

- Full Scholarship: Travel, Hotel, and Conference Registration
- Hotel and registration ONLY
- In-Person Registration only
- Virtual Registration only

For:

- Myself – adult living with scleroderma
- Child living with scleroderma (Under 18 years of age)
- (1) Parent/Guardian AND child living with scleroderma
- Myself as a parent of a minor child living with scleroderma

If you selected **Full Scholarship** above, please indicate how you would be traveling to the conference: DRIVING or FLYING

Availability of conference scholarships is dependent on funds raised for this purpose. We regret that we may not be able to support all qualified requests.

APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Please be thorough and thoughtful in your answers as they are used in determining your application score. If completing by hand, please be sure your answers are legible. You may use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

1. Have you ever attended a National Scleroderma Foundation national conference before? NO YES

If YES, please list years attended: _____

2. Have you ever received a scholarship to attend the conference? NO YES

If YES, please list years attended: _____

3. Please explain what you hope to gain from attending the 2023 National Scleroderma Conference, and the impact of being able to attend the conference will have on your diagnosis.

CONFIRMATION AND SIGNATURE

I affirm that the documentation provided completely and accurately reflects my household income as of the date signed. In addition, I have confirmed with my physician (or minor child's physician) my ability to attend the conference. By signing below, I affirm that the information and statements provided in this application are true.

Printed Name of Applicant

Applicant Signature

(If completing fillable field form, name entered electronically)

Date

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All applicants will be notified of their status in mid-April via email.
