

El Grupo Youth Cycling Rider Scholarship

Empowering Youth Beyond the Bicycle

Purpose

El Grupo strives to help riders achieve their post-high school education goals and prepare for the demands of vocational training, community college, university and work. Because the financial demand of attaining these is high, El Grupo wants to provide a scholarship to riders that demonstrate a need, discipline and effort in reaching their goals.

Scholarship

The intent is to award scholarships of \$2,000 – \$5,000 on an annual basis. The number and amount of scholarships awarded will depend on the number of applicants and whether funding is available, so scholarships may not be awarded every year. El Grupo will generate the funding from fundraising directed to this scholarship fund. A rider may receive a one-year scholarship to aid in education costs, and may receive a second if eligibility requirements are met, need demonstrated and the committee approves. The scholarship will be used for costs associated with vocational training, community college or university attendance. The scholarship committee will consider other higher education options on a case-by-case basis.

Requirements of Application

- High school senior or a high school graduate within two years of graduating
- Minimum 2 years of active participation in El Grupo
- Proof of need (detailed below)
- Proof that other revenue sources are being sought (detailed below)
- Responses to essay questions (detailed below)

* An interview may be required in order to determine finalists for selection. If required, all riders will be notified at least 1 week prior to their interview. The interview will be held with at least 2 committee members. Topics to be discussed will also be given in advance so riders can prepare.

Expectations of Scholarship Recipients

The expectations detailed below were created to help riders learn to balance education and personal enrichment outside the classroom. In working towards educational goals it is critical for students to continually develop other skills and gain broad experiences that will help grow their potential and make connections with other communities.

- Complete a minimum of 10 hours/week of employment or volunteer work while completing educational requirements
- Be enrolled as a full-time student according to the standards of the institution you attend
- Maintain an average minimum GPA of 3.0 for the academic year

- The recipient will present to the El Grupo Board and team during winter and summer breaks about their educational experience and how it was impacted by receiving this scholarship and fulfilling these expectations

Expectations and Members of the El Grupo Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee has responsibilities to all applicants. This experience is designed to help prepare applicants for future applications and to learn to present themselves and their goals in an effective way. El Grupo hopes that this process is valuable for future applications and interviews and helps applicants identify strengths and weaknesses even when the applicant is not awarded a scholarship. To do that El Grupo commits to the following:

- Providing clear explanations and requirements for all applicants in this document and when asked
- Choosing fair and accurate criteria to award scholarships
- Clearly stating deadlines for all steps in the application process
- Providing or helping applicants identify sources of help in preparing the application
- Giving feedback on each application to inform applicants of strengths and suggested improvements, regardless of whether the applicant received a scholarship or not
- The core committee will be composed of the El Grupo Executive Director, a Board member and a current academic advisor. Up to 2 more individuals may be involved, for example: donors, alumni, educators affiliated with El Grupo, etc.
- Committee members will be announced at the time the scholarship is posted to the El Grupo website

Application Timeline

1. The application will be posted to the El Grupo Website no later than December 15, 2017 and will remain accessible on the website thereafter. Any changes from one year to the next will be made by the opening date of application submission.
2. Applications will be accepted from December 15th of each year until January 15th of the next year.
3. The scholarship committee will review all applications and announce finalists no later than January 30th.
4. If rider interviews (see “Requirements of Application”) are needed to select recipients, applicants will be informed of your interview time and topics at the time of finalists announcement. If interviews are deemed necessary, they will take place in the month of February.
5. Scholarship recipients will be announced March 1st.
6. Scholarship funds will be distributed in two allotments: half of the awarded amount on August 1st and the other half following the winter break presentation (see “Expectations of Scholarship Recipients”), unless otherwise discussed and agreed upon between the recipient and the committee.

I. Rider Information

Rider Name: _____

Year in School or year graduated: _____

Number of years active in El Grupo: _____

Institutions to which you have applied: _____

II. Proof of Need

1. FAFSA-estimated family contribution: _____

2. Amount your family agreed to contribute to your education: _____

3. If applicable, amount you can contribute: _____

4. Scholarship amount you ask for (\$2,000-\$5,000): _____

5. Specific costs/fees the El Grupo Scholarship would be applied to:
Please list costs given by the institution (ex: room and board, fees, tuition, books, meals, etc.). The amounts listed may exceed the scholarship amount.

Ex: Cost: Room and board for 1 year in Yavapai dorm \$6,080
Institution: University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

1. Cost: _____
Institution: _____

2. Cost: _____
Institution: _____

3. Cost: _____
Institution: _____

4. Cost: _____
Institution: _____

5. Cost: _____

Institution: _____

6. Other sources of funding you have applied or will apply for:

Please identify potential funding outside of your family and El Grupo. This includes scholarships from the institutions you applied to, other scholarship sources, work-trade, etc.

Ex: Scholarship and Source: Wildcat Excellence Award, University of Arizona

Amount: \$6,000

Date applied for: November 3, 2017

Confirmed: Y / N Date of announcement: _____

1. Scholarship and Source: _____

Amount: _____

Date applied for: _____

Confirmed: Y / N Date of announcement: _____

2. Scholarship and Source: _____

Amount: _____

Date applied for: _____

Confirmed: Y / N Date of announcement: _____

3. Scholarship and Source: _____

Amount: _____

Date applied for: _____

Confirmed: Y / N Date of announcement: _____

4. Scholarship and Source: _____

Amount: _____

Date applied for: _____

Confirmed: Y / N Date of announcement: _____

5. Scholarship and Source: _____

Amount: _____

Date applied for: _____

Confirmed: Y / N Date of announcement: _____

Please attach copies of any financial awards or scholarships that you have already received at this time. Staple the copies to the back of the application, behind all pages and your essay responses.

III. Essays

Both of the following essay questions are required to be considered for a scholarship. The format of these essays is

- Double-spaced
- 500 (minimum) – 1,000 (maximum) words each
- 12pt Arial, Times New Roman or Cambria font in black ink
- No title
- The top of each page must have the rider name, page number and essay number in the header section
- Spelling, grammar and structure conventions will be evaluated
- All content produced must be original and independently written. Plagiarizing is strictly prohibited and grounds for automatic disqualification
- Failure to adhere to all of the above criteria is grounds for automatic disqualification

Essay 1: The purpose of this scholarship is to provide assistance to riders that demonstrate a need, discipline and effort in achieving their goals. Please elaborate on how you have developed personal discipline and have put in exceptional effort to this process and your education as a result of your experience on El Grupo. Explain how El Grupo has impacted your self-sufficiency and work ethic.

Essay 2: Please explain how you would use an El Grupo scholarship to achieve your academic goals. You must include the reason you are seeking a scholarship from El Grupo specifically and how this scholarship would impact your academic goals.

IV. Final Submission Requirements

Each rider must submit the scholarship in paper and electronic copy. The paper copy must be submitted to Daniela Diamente or Julia Liatti during Monday Academic Hours no later than January 15th. The electronic copy must be submitted to info@elgrupocycling.org no later than January 15th.

The paper copy must have all pages in numbered order, with essay responses in numbered order behind the application, and any supporting documents behind the essays in order of where they are written in the application.