

## **SEPTEMBER: SCHOLARSHIPS AND SCOUTING**

### **MUSIC FULL THEN UNDER**

LEE: Welcome to the September ScoutCast. I'm Lee Shaw, Team Lead of National Alliances along with Bryan on Scouting Blogger Bryan Wendell, who will now reveal the topic of today's conversation.

BRYAN: Oh, I get to do that, okay. The September/October issue of *Scouting* magazine has a great article on what you need to know when you're ready to start filling out college applications. And our ScoutCast producers read that article and they said, "Hey guys, let's add to that and talk about scholarships available for Scouts."

LEE: After all, there are many universities, BSA local councils, and religious, civic, and military organizations that offer college scholarships to Scouts, so let's find out what's available.

### **Music Fades**

And we have with us the man with all the answers, Ryan Larson. Ryan is the Business Development Specialist for the Alumni Relations Team here at the National Office where his responsibilities include working with the National Eagle Scout Association. Welcome to ScoutCast, Ryan.

RYAN: Hey, thanks for having me.

LEE: It's good to see ya. So, Ryan, this is an awesome topic for me because, like many of our listeners, I'm sure, we have children of college age. So, tell us what types of scholarships are available to Scouts.

RYAN: The National Eagle Scout Association offers two basic type of scholarships: academic and merit scholarships. Academic scholarships are based on school, Scouting participation, academic performance and financial need. The merit scholarships are a little bit different and are based on school and Scouting participation and community service. NESAs also offers one STEM scholarship which is considered an academic scholarship. Scouts can apply for the academic scholarships in their senior year only, but Scouts can apply for merit scholarships beginning in their senior year of high school and continue to apply every year till their junior year in college. Most people don't know that they can actually continue applying for those when they are in college, but you can only win a NESAs scholarship one time.

LEE: Okay.

BRYAN: And you can only receive a scholarship if you apply, and I know they're really competitive but you still want to encourage people to apply, so when is the current deadline for those?

RYAN: The deadline for all the scholarships and the submissions is October 31st each year, and we open it up every year on August 1st.

BRYAN: So, you went over the NESAs scholarships. How can Scouts and their parents find out more about the NESAs scholarships and about who else is offering scholarships out there?

RYAN: We put a lot of information on the NESAs scholarships at our website, [nesa.org](http://nesa.org), and then we also have a section on that website that displays scholarships that we have heard about that are offered to Eagle Scouts but are offered through institutions other than the Boy Scouts of America.

BRYAN: That's on nesa.org as well? Nice.

RYAN: If they go to the scholarships tab at the top of the main page and then the drop down "Other Eagle Scout Scholarships," that's where they'll find information on those other ones.

BRYAN: All kinds of free money.

RYAN: A Scout is thrifty.

BRYAN: Yes, absolutely.

LEE: Very informative. So, let's take an example here. Let's say Johnny wants to go to Harvard, okay? We know how expensive that could be. How does he find out if Harvard has a Scout specific scholarship?

RYAN: For a college-specific scholarship, we would recommend that they would check with their admissions office as soon as they select the college that they're going to go to, and if the college has an Eagle Scout scholarship, they may be limited and distribute on a first-come, first-serve basis, so oftentimes these are not publicized and it may be a case of finding the right staffer who knows that they exist. We also recommend that Scouts ask their council whether they have a local scholarship available.

BRYAN: So, it's not just nesa.org. They can also reach out to maybe their charter organization as well?

RYAN: Sure. We have listed a couple of the scholarships that we're aware of that are offered through some of our chartering organizations like the Elks or

American Legion, and they can go and find those at nesa.org. But we're not aware of every single one, and so it would be a good idea to maybe reach out to whoever you're chartering organization is for your unit and see if they are offering any scholarships. And you probably would be wise to go to their national websites to see if you can't glean that information.

LEE: Well, one of the places where I know you can find all of those organizations in one place is on the [marketing membership hub](#). It's the Charter Organization Resource Guide, and in that guide it has 87 of the national charter organizations that partner with the Boy Scouts of America and it will list the scholarships that are available through those chartering organizations. So, if you have a moment to go to the Marketing Membership Hub and go under Charter Organizations, then you'll be able to see that guide and you'll be able to see those scholarships in one place.

BRYAN: Oh, that's really great. Now, we talked about Scout specific but are there some scholarships where Scouts might have a better shot even though they don't limit it just to Scouts?

RYAN: The Scouting Alumni and Friends organization is looking at providing additional scholarships that will run the gamut and be a little bit more comprehensive than maybe not just to Eagle Scouts.

BRYAN: And then there's the traditional ways of searching for scholarships where you don't have to be a Scout...

RYAN: Some things haven't changed since all of us were in high school, but checking with your high school counselor to go and see if they are aware of any scholarships and, you really need to be starting early in the game, like maybe your freshman, sophomore year and checking those out, 'cause some of those are only available early in your high school years and you don't want to miss out.

BRYAN: And Scouts probably have a leg up on ones that require you to write an essay because who has a better experience that they can write about than a Scout, right? They've done really challenging things that they can write about in that essay.

RYAN: Correct. And most of them, are looking at a well-rounded individual. So, we have to imagine that our Scouts are well-rounded individuals that are doing community service, are active in civic organizations, are not just going to school and then coming home but are doing additional activities. What we find is those are the individuals that are getting these scholarships.

LEE: One of the things that I like to share with our listeners is the dollar amounts that are available. It may be surprising to some to know just how much monies are available through these scholarships. One very specific scholarship that the American Legion awards to Eagle Scouts each year. They have their Eagle of the Year and that individual receives \$10,000 a year.

BRYAN: Nice.

LEE: In addition to that, they also award three other individuals with \$2,500 scholarships each year. Most people might just be surprised of the dollar amount that's available.

RYAN: Most of our scholarships range \$5,000. We still, I believe, have a couple of funded by specific endowments that were just \$1,000 but most of all of our scholarships come in at the \$5,000 amount, and then our big ones like the STEM scholarship or the Hall/McEcClain Scholarship is about \$48,000. So, there's a couple that are significant.

LEE: Thanks for sharing that, for sure. So, it's September. What does a Scout need to do like right now to obtain a scholarship?

RYAN: They need to go to [nesa.org](http://nesa.org) and click the Scholarship button. And review frequently-asked questions first. We get a lot of calls into our office that are already answered on that page, and I would just recommend to those parents and those Eagle Scouts to go and look at that first before they apply. And also, they don't need to use their My Scouting username and password or even their alumni username and password. The scholarship page is specific to scholarships, so they need to go onto the button where they apply, and develop their username and password. And then they need to realize that they are competing against other Eagle Scouts. I had a funny call from one parent who wondered why her son didn't get the Eagle Scout Scholarship, And I had to remind her that he was applying against other Eagle Scouts. These are stellar folks. So, you really need to take your time in the essays and put your best foot forward because Eagle Scouts are a competitive bunch; they're well-rounded individuals so you really need to show everything that you're doing both

inside school, outside school, what you're involved in to set yourself apart from the others that are applying.

BRYAN: That's great advice. It's no news to anybody that it's expensive to go to college, but NESAs are helping people, and did I get the number right? It's almost like \$700,000 worth of scholarships are going to be awarded by NESAs?

RYAN: Yes, we granted about 154 scholarships in 2017 and we'll be granting out more. That endowment continues to increase as folks donate to it.

BRYAN: That's awesome.

RYAN: The dollars that come in through NESAs memberships, a portion of those actually help fund the scholarship fund. It just continues to grow and we continue to offer more.

BRYAN: So, Ryan, is anything else about scholarships that you wanted to discuss with our listeners?

RYAN: Our regional committees are the ones that decide the scholarship award recipients and they're always looking for those that could help review the scholarship applicants. And if you want to feel better about the upcoming generation and those that are being served in Scouting and see the quality and the actual product of what Scouting is putting together, we would

recommend that you reach out to our office if you'd like to be a part of the process. You can email us at [nesa@scouting.org](mailto:nesa@scouting.org) and we'll see if there's a place for you on one of the selection committees.

BRYAN: That's cool. So, you get to see that elite-level Eagle Scout who is applying for these scholarships and just how competitive it really is.

LEE: Well, let's just go ahead and add college scholarships to the list of perks of being an Eagle Scout. Ryan, I want to say thanks so much for joining us. We certainly appreciate your time and your information.

RYAN: Thank you for having me.

BRYAN: Now, listeners at home, don't go anywhere. We'll be right back with Reminders and Tips after this brief Safety Moment.

### **Safety Moment – Family Camping**

BRYAN: The September/October issue of *Scouting* magazine features a beginner's guide to family camping. Coincidence? And *Boys' Life* magazine will kick off the NFL season this month with some of the greatest comebacks in NFL history, including that 2017 Super Bowl comeback where the Patriots overtook the Atlanta Falcons.

LEE: One of my first visits to the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, was with my Boy Scout troop. It was a great time, too. So, in other reminders, your troop open house should be held soon if you haven't done so already. If you're still using paper applications, remember to submit all new youth and

adult applications and registration fees to the Council Service Center. If you're using the online registration, be sure to approve or accept all applications for your unit.

**BRYAN:** And remember, listeners, for every adult wanting to join Scouting, Youth Protection Training is encouraged within 30 days of submitting your application, so make sure everybody gets that done. If you can't attend a council-led training session to get that Youth Protection Training Certificate, you can also take the training online.

**LEE:** And absolutely anyone, especially parents and potential leaders, can take that online training by creating a "my.Scouting account". Just go to Scouting.org and click the My.Scouting tab at the top of the page. Then you can do what I do: make it a bookmark on your browser.

**Begin music under:**

**LEE:** All right, as informative as this has been, that music you hear means the September ScoutCast has come to an end. We want to thank our guest Ryan Larson for joining us.

**BRYAN:** And thank you for listening. Now, if there's any topics you'd like to hear about or you just want to let us know how we're doing, send us an email to ScoutCast@Scouting.org or tweet us. We're @BSAScoutCast. And with that, I'm Bryan Wendell.

**LEE:** And I'm Lee Shaw. And go ahead, tweet about us. You know you want to.

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