

Empire Runners Club Student Grant Fund

The Empire Runners Student Grant Fund was established in the year 2000 with the goal of helping deserving high school student athletes go on to college by awarding monetary grants. Since we are a running club and we were not aware of any local scholarships being offered specifically to runners, we decided to design our program aimed at that particular area. To qualify, a student must have participated in track or cross country on a team at any Sonoma County high school and be planning to run on a team at college level after graduating from high school. (See the application for full eligibility requirements.) All Sonoma County high school seniors meeting the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply and membership in the Empire Runners Club is not required. There are no restrictions on which college an applicant is planning to attend provided that they have an organized track and or cross country program and the grants may be used by the students however they wish to help with their college expenses.

The Club awards a minimum of two grants of \$500 each year, one each for a graduating male and female. We also award additional grants of varying amounts each year based on our available funds and the number of applicants, sometimes awarding as many as ten grants in one year. The first grants were awarded in the year 2001 and through 2008 we have awarded Thirty seven grants totaling approximately \$15,000. Applications are accepted each year from February through April and awards are announced in May with the formal presentation of the grants made at the Kenwood Footrace on July 4th each year. All students receiving awards are invited to participate in the race as our guest.

These Grants are made possible in part through funding provided by Empire Runners Club membership dues. Additional funding is provided through donations by members and by a raffle held at the monthly club meetings. Donations can be made when joining or renewing a membership by filling out the space provided on the application or anytime by sending a check to the Empire Runners Club with a note saying "Student Grant Fund".

For more information you may contact the Student Grant Fund Chairman at:

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[Student Grant Fund Application](#) (pdf file)

The Empire Runners Club is an IRS Section 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Donations made to the Student Grant Fund may be tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor.