

SBAK National Conference Scholarship Policies

A. The Nature of the Scholarship. The SBAK Financial Assistance Fund Application is revised to more clearly reflect the intended purpose of a National Conference Scholarship. The Conference Scholarship is provided to qualified applicants to increase their knowledge of Spina Bifida related topics. Although the benefit of attending conference also includes social interactions, networking, seeing new products and visiting new parts of the country, SBAK must confirm that SBAK sponsored attendees at conference are meeting the educational objective. Individuals who receive scholarships are eligible to apply again after two years. 2009 recipients can apply again in 2011.

B. The amount of the Scholarship Benefit. SBAK Scholarships are limited to no more than Conference Registration and the cost of hotel rooms for a maximum of four days. Applicants are encouraged to cover as much of the cost using their own resources. Applicants from the state of Kentucky are encouraged to also apply to the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities Consumer Involvement Fund. Applications can be obtained from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Consumer Involvement Fund or call 1-877-367-5332.

C. The Procedure to Apply. Scholarships are available for adults or children born with Spina Bifida and parents of children under eighteen born with Spina Bifida who reside in Kentucky or Southern Indiana. Consideration will be given to scholarships for siblings depending on funds available.

SBAK reserves the right to place administrative requirements on the receipt of a scholarship including but not limited to completion of an application, maintaining current contact information with SBAK, agreeing to a Post-Conference Activity and confirmation that the applicant has Spina Bifida.

D. Financial Notes:

1. Payment will be made directly to SBAA for registration and to the hotel for lodging.
2. If the scholarship recipient does not attend for reasons due to a **medical emergency** (which must be accompanied by a sufficient medical documentation) SBAK will cover only nonrefundable expenses incurred.
3. If the scholarship recipient does not attend for reasons other than a medical emergency, any expenses incurred by **SBAK shall be reimbursed** by the individual or parent.
4. If a **scholarship recipient is not able to attend**, the FAF Committee reserves the right to choose another scholarship recipient from the pool of applications received.

E. Scholarship Recipient Obligations:

1. Attendance at an absolute minimum of 3/4 of the offered sessions.
2. Represent SBAK in a professional, courteous and respectful manner.

3. Keep and submit to Pat Dintaman SBAK a written record of all sessions attended and a completed evaluation form no later than July 31, 2010.
4. Failure to meet these obligations may result in disqualification of the recipient from consideration for future Conference Scholarships.

G. Post Conference Obligations: (choose one of the following). All recipients will also be required to complete a Conference Evaluation Form which will be sent with the confirmation letter and Contract.

1. Write a short article on what you learned at the conference that would be suitable for publication in the SBAK UPDATE and on www.sbak.org. The article could be anything from medical findings to cool, new braces or accessories that could make your life easier to a well thought out "10 Neat Things I Learned at Conference!" (Think David Letterman "Top 10 List") Articles are due no later than August 16, 2010.
2. Submit a proposal (to be approved by the Committee) with the application which includes significant involvement in planning and implementing an event that would benefit SBAK or SBAK constituents no later than June 30, 2010. Suggestions: serve on a committee for a fundraiser such as the Walk planned for October; organize a group such as the Playtime with Me; organize a third party fundraising event; organize a Safety Training Presentation for your area.

Be creative.

H. Contract – Approved scholarship applicants will be required to sign a contract confirming intention to comply with these policies.