The PDSA College Scholarship Program
Sponsored by the Platelet Disorder Support Association

The PDSA strives to provide patient information and support through its website, many publications and annual and regional conferences. We realize that many ITP patients and their families struggle with the financial difficulty of living with a chronic disorder and the huge burden of medical bills, which is why the scholarship would be beneficial. We also believe that education is the key to success.

Who is Eligible for the Scholarship?

Awards are restricted to senior high school students, current college students, or adults interested in continuing education who have ITP or a similar inherited or non-inherited diagnosed platelet disorder. The Scholarship award is intended to assist full-time undergraduate or graduate students entering or attending an accredited technical school, two- or four-year college, university or graduate school in the United States. The Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen. There is no GPA requirement, however, the applicant must have acceptance to the college of their choice. Former Scholarship recipients are not permitted to reapply (those who have won book awards are still eligible). Family members of ITP patients, PDSA staff and their family members, PDSA board members and their family members, or the Scholarship committee judges and their family members are not eligible to apply.

The Application Process

A 700 – 1,000 word essay is required which details how your platelet disorder has resulted in your growth as a person; what you learned about your own strengths and weaknesses. If you feel it’s changed you, whether emotionally or physically, describe how it changed your approach to life and relationships. Describe how having an illness might have affected your life’s accomplishments and helped you set goals. If you feel that having a chronic illness has helped you choose a career path, describe how, and explain why you feel this way and what you have done to meet these educational goals. Explain what your plans are for the future in meeting your educational responsibilities, in light of your struggles with a platelet disorder. **Remember when you are writing your essay to include your name only on the application and NOT in the body of the essay.**
An Application (email submission preferred) will be due and submitted to the PDSA no earlier than March 4 and no later than April 17, and winners will be notified by May 31. Incomplete or late Applications will not be considered. Scholarship award winners will be announced at our annual ITP Conference and in our quarterly newsletter, The Platelet News. The essays and applications will be reviewed and judged by an impartial panel selected by the PDSA Board of Directors.

Scholarship Funds

Scholarship Funds will be awarded in a one-time payment as follows during the academic year. Payments will be made directly to the institution prior to the start of the fall semester.

1) First prize: $1,500 and two (2) complimentary 2020 ITP Conference registrations
2) Second prize: $750

In addition, three (3) third place winners will be awarded $250 each for text books payable to the individual winners upon presentation of receipts.

*The PDSA reserves the right to change eligibility criteria yearly and does not guarantee the availability of scholarship awards annually.*
PDSA College Scholarship Application

Student's Full Name:

Address:

Birth Date:

Student's or Parent's E-mail Address:

Name of Diagnosed Platelet Disorder:

Parent(s)/Guardian Name(s), if applicable:

Parent(s)/Guardian Address(s), if applicable:

Parent(s)/Guardian Phone Number(s), if applicable:

Student's Phone Number(s), if different:

What is the Name of the School you are attending now?

To which College or Technical School have you been accepted?

Names and contact information of persons writing letters of recommendation:
Please provide 2 written recommendation letters from adults who are not related to you.

Please have the person who is writing the recommendation letter use ‘he’ or ‘she’ in place of the applicant’s name. We want the scholarship selection committee to not be able to identify anyone by name.

The recommendation letter must be sent by the person writing the recommendation via e-mail directly to Brenda Foster at bfoster@pdsa.org.

I, ____________________________________________, do hereby state that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have received an acceptance letter from the above-mentioned college or institution, and that I meet eligibility criteria as defined above.

(Upon award notification, a recent photo may be requested for publication. The photo will not be returned.)

_________________________________________________

Signature

Date __________________

Complete the application and return to (e-mail preferred):

Platelet Disorder Support Association
Attention:  PDSA College Scholarship
8751 Brecksville Road, Suite 150
Cleveland, OH 44141
bfoster@pdsa.org

www.pdsa.org