



Sissel and Roger Espeland Memorial Scholarship

Our Mission

The mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation is to celebrate Nordic culture and heritage through scholarships and grants to our members and communities.

Overview

Sons of Norway International Board member and leader Roger Espeland was born in Iowa to Norwegian parents. His wife and long-time Sons of Norway member, Sissel Liknes Espeland was born in Norway. Sissel and Roger are pleased to support a young adult who is also connected to their heritage and culture. The Sissel and Roger Espeland Memorial Scholarship Fund creates an opportunity for qualified applicants to receive scholarships for post-secondary education at accredited four-year institutions or training at accredited vocational/trade schools located in the United States of America.

Award Amount

The monetary award for this scholarship is **up to \$4,000**.

Eligibility

- **Deadline** – Submission of the completed application and all required elements is **February 15th**
- **Country of Study** – United States
- **Age** – Candidates must be between the ages of 17-26
- **College Credit Needed** – None
- **Proof of Enrollment** – No
- **Level of Study** – Technical/Vocational, Undergraduate
- **Field of Study** – Any
- **SON Membership Requirement** – Applicants who are current members of Sons of Norway or children or grandchildren of a current member with membership in effect at least one calendar year prior to application
- **Length of Award** – 1 Year
- **Applicant Citizenship** – United States

*Note – The Sons of Norway Foundation does not provide financial assistance for current or previous academic years room & board, travel, etc.

Criteria

- A short autobiography, 150 words or less.
- An essay of 500 words or less addressing each of the following key points:
 - » Describe how this scholarship will help you further your career goals.
 - » Explain why you have chosen your area of study or training and what you hope to achieve in your life through your future career.
 - » Share any involvement in volunteer, school and/or community activities and what that involvement has taught you.
 - » State how your program/course of study or future plans align with at least one of the following core values of the Foundation:

1. Building Nordic culture and heritage for the future
 2. Committing to life-long learning and service
 3. Demonstrating compassion for our members in need
 4. Sustaining the link to contemporary Norway
 5. Fostering a community of generosity
- » Describe your involvement in the Sons of Norway and how it has shaped who you are today.
 - » State how you will share this experience with the Sons of Norway or wider audiences.
- Academic potential: Upload your latest completed term's transcripts. *Please note, "official" transcripts may be required once an applicant is tentatively selected.*
 - Financial need: Be prepared to include the amount you are able to pay for post-secondary education/training in the online application.
 - Letters of Recommendation:
 - » Two letters of recommendation that address your character and abilities.

Application Process

Applications are only accepted via our online portal at <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/>.

Award Selection

Final selection of the scholarship winners will be made by a scholarship committee appointed by the Sons of Norway Foundation. Scoring is dependent on the use of complete sentences, proper grammar, inclusion of information outlined in the essay requirements listed above and financial need.

Candidates may only receive two Sons of Norway scholarships in a five-year period.

Scholarship Notification and Payment

Notification of an award will be made by email or phone within 14 weeks of the application deadline.

Scholarship funding is made payable to the institution listed on the application and mailed to the scholarship recipient. If awarded, the recipient will be required to complete information including his or her student ID number for the institution and a current mailing address.

Recipient Requirements

Scholarship recipients are asked to grant permission to use their photo and name in *Viking* magazine, the Foundation's annual report and other scholarship promotional materials. They are also expected to give a presentation, including photos, at their Sons of Norway lodge or one close to them to explain how this scholarship is helping them achieve their educational dreams. We will provide you with a form for a lodge officer to sign after your presentation.

Revision Policy

The Sons of Norway Foundation reserves the right to modify requirements. All participants are encouraged to check the Foundation website, <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/> for the most current information.

Questions

Questions may be directed to the Foundation at scholarship@sofn.com.

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Sons of Norway Foundation scholarship.