

# **ZAH-MNE Scholarship fund**

## **Information, criteria and eligible institutions**

The Executive Committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) approved the Mike N. Engineer (MNE) Scholarship program the week of August 16, 2016. The scholarship aims to encourage and identify Need based, Community Service based, and Academics based achievers in the Zoroastrian community.

The MNE scholarship award will be a distribution in the amount of \$3,500 from donations received and the investment earnings of the MNE Scholarship Funds of ZAH. The annual award of \$3,500 will be given the week of March 21, 2020 or sometime during the first half of the year. If there is a tie for the annual award, the selection committee reserves the right to split the amount awarded among the applicants. Also, if possible, additional spot awards of approximately \$1,000 may be made to the runner-up applicants later in the second half of 2020.

***COMPLETE APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 7, 2020.***

A “need based” academic scholarship fund has been established by Mr. Mike Nadirshaw Engineer in memory of his beloved parents, Nadirshaw and Homai Engineer, and his grandparents.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

This fund will award scholarships to deserving Zoroastrian students to further their post-secondary education. To be eligible, students must demonstrate financial need. Other significant factors for this scholarship include:

- Academic performance
- Past service/involvement within the community
- Promise of future contribution to the Zoroastrian community

The student:

- Must have at least one parent (living or deceased) who is a Zoroastrian citizen of the world,
- Should be a member (or become a member) of the ZAH or other local Zoroastrian association.
- Should participate in Zoroastrian activities and prayers to the extent reasonably possible. (This is based upon the honor system. Nobody will keep a log.)
- This scholarship will be awarded to student(s) who have academic credentials, have demonstrated a desire to succeed, but more importantly have demonstrated a verifiable financial need.

## **Eligible Institutions**

The education must be at any accredited University, College, Community College, or accredited vocational or IT or advanced technology related institute with credible certifications. A lesser-known organization should have a proven record for good employment prospects. Proof of admission or applications to institutions with all relevant documents must be presented.

Preference will be given to students attending an educational institution in the following locations (presented in order of preference):

- Greater Houston TX area including College Station TX
- Any location in Texas or Louisiana
- Anywhere in North America
- Preference will be given to students attending an in-state university

## **Summary Of Selection Criteria**

- The applicant should be enrolled in an accredited college, community college or vocational program OR is going to be enrolled in a post high school program within twelve months from the date when the scholarship application is sent out.
- Applicants must be a ZAH member or become a member of ZAH or a member of their local Zoroastrian Association member.
- Applicants must be financially needy Zoroastrian students pursuing a college degree or a trade or vocational school program.
- This scholarship will be awarded only to student(s) who have demonstrated a verifiable financial need.
- Percentage weightings for scholarship evaluation will be: 60% financial need, 20% academic, and 20% local Zoroastrian community participation.
- The committee may request additional information, which in its opinion is necessary for the selection of candidates.
- Committee decisions for awarding scholarships will be final.

**Recipients are strongly encouraged to keep in touch with ZAH at least every six months and if possible contribute to the ZAH-MNE Need Based Scholarship Fund by a lump-sum donation or monthly installments shortly after starting a fulltime job or business, so as to enable the Fund to continue to support need based candidates in their post-secondary educational endeavors. The Scholarship recipient is encouraged to contribute an amount equal to or greater than the amount of the scholarship award received and may arrange for a monthly payment plan to ZAH.**

## **Privacy**

Information contained in the applications is strictly confidential and all details will be kept within the committee. Once the scholarship winner is declared, all other applications will be destroyed. The winner's application will be kept on file for four years

### **Checklist For Applicants**

- Completed Application Form, signed by applicant and Witnessed by an Adult ZAH member or local Zoroastrian association member in good standing.
- High School/College Transcripts, and other relevant documents.
- Copy of first two pages of tax returns with Social Security Numbers deleted. Tax returns will be shredded after income is verified. If you do not want to attach tax returns to the application, please arrange to meet with two or more members of the selection committee (may include the trustee) and show it to them personally.
- Three reference letters – at least one from a school or college - from people who are familiar with the student's character and interactions with academics and community service. They shall not be close relatives of the applicant.

***NOTE: Reference letters should be emailed directly to same email as the applications.***

**PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND ALL ATTACHMENTS**  
**BY MARCH 7, 2020 TO:**  
**[mnescholarship@gmail.com](mailto:mnescholarship@gmail.com)**

**Dear Applicants:**

- 1. Please confirm that you meet the criteria listed on Pages 1 and 2.**
- 2. Please double-check your application, all attachments, & supporting documents. Incomplete applications may cause you to miss the deadlines and your application may not be evaluated. Please use the checklist provided above to confirm that your application is complete.**
- 3. Please call Yasmin Pavri (281) 731-3548 or Rohintan Deputy (832) 532-7394 if you have any questions.**