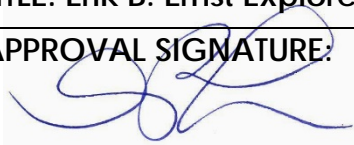


ROWLETT CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY

TITLE: Erik B. Ernst Explorer Scholarship Program

APPROVAL SIGNATURE:



NAME: Whitney P. Laning

TITLE: RCCC President

DATE: 01/12/2019

POLICY NO.: 19-138 (supersedes 12-125)

PROGRAM : RCCC

SECTION: Awards

PAGES: 3

1. Purpose

The Erik B. Ernst Explorer Scholarship is established by the Rowlett Citizen Corps Council (RCCC) to promote and support the educational development of Rowlett Explorer Post (Explorer) members to continue their studies in a career that enhances their leadership abilities or provides a service to the community, in any field, in keeping with the RCCC Mission. The scholarship is competitive in nature and not conferred by virtue of title, status or membership.

2. Background

This scholarship honors the founder of Rowlett Explorer Post One, Erik B. Ernst. In late 2007, Erik led the charge to develop a program where we could build values and mentor youth in a multi-disciplined emergency management program. Because of Erik's experience with Cub and Boy Scouts, he knew that Learning for Life's Exploring program was exactly the program that would do that and more. The RCCC Board of Directors voted unanimously to pursue a charter with Learning for Life and appointed Erik as first Director of the program. In short order, Erik was able to write new operations policies, recruit Adult Advisors, develop an Explorer recruitment plan and shape the fledgling program into a sustainable entity.

Today, the Rowlett Explorer Post One is a vibrant, energetic program largely due to the leadership, commitment and passion of Erik B. Ernst. The program is integrated with our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Rowlett Explorers are a tight unit of highly respected, mature young adults who perform as well as or better than adults with the same level of skill and training. We credit their success directly to the leadership, mentoring and attitude modeled by Erik during his tenure as Explorer Director.

3. Authority

Authority for implementing this policy shall reside solely with the RCCC Board of Directors. All award decisions are made by the RCCC Board of Directors and considered final at the time of award announcement.

4. Board Authorization

- 4.1. Scholarships under this policy are awarded on a funds available basis as approved by the RCCC Board of Directors. For this reason, the RCCC cannot guaranty the sustainability of the scholarship from year to year.
- 4.2. The Board may vote to set aside funding for this award whenever the opportunity exists.
- 4.3. An announcement of the award, including the application open and close period, will be made no later 30 days from Board authorization.
- 4.4. Scholarship awards made under this policy shall be set at a maximum of \$500.
- 4.5. The Board shall determine the number of awards to be granted under this policy in consideration of available funding.
- 4.6. All awards shall be in the form of legal tender, cash or check payable directly to the applicant.

5. Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy all of the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

- 5.1. Applicants must have completed service in a recognized leadership role for a period of not less than 6 months in the Rowlett Explorer Post. The Explorer Director shall be responsible for verifying this criterion.
- 5.2. Applicants must be Explorer members in good standing as determined by the Explorer Post SOP and are not subject to any ongoing or unresolved disciplinary actions.
- 5.3. Applicants must have a letter of acceptance (or equivalent proof of enrollment) from an educational institution that normally maintains faculty and curriculum and has a regularly organized body of students. The scholarship may be granted, but not paid until such proof is received.
- 5.4. Applicants must have the intention to develop career skills of their choice but with an emphasis on continuing to serve as leaders in their community and enhance the lives of the citizens of the same.
- 5.5. Explorer Volunteer of the Year Award recipients are automatically eligible.
- 5.6. The scholarship is a one-time award. Previous scholarship awardees are not eligible to apply.

6. How to Apply

- 6.1. Each applicant should put together a packet which contains the following information:
 - 6.1.1. Copy of their acceptance letter, or equivalent proof of enrollment, from an educational institution as defined elsewhere in this policy.
 - 6.1.2. An essay of not less than 500, and not more than 1,500 words that includes the following topics:
 - 6.1.2.1. The applicant's intended career choice.
 - 6.1.2.2. The motivation for their career choice.
 - 6.1.2.3. How the Explorer Post has prepared them for their career choice.
 - 6.1.3. A brief listing of offices held, activities, projects or other leadership opportunities completed during their tenure as an Explorer Post member.
 - 6.1.4. An estimate of the total service hours contributed to the RCCC through Affiliated Programs during their tenure as a RCCC member.
 - 6.1.5. A statement of eligibility from the current Explorer Post Director.
- 6.2. A completed application packet should be given to the RCCC President or Explorer Director for consideration no later than the last day of the open period.

7. Selection Process

- 7.1. The RCCC President shall appoint a Selection Committee minimally consisting of at least one Explorer Adult Advisor or Associate Advisor, one RCCC Board Member, and one RCCC Corporate Officer.
- 7.2. The Selection Committee shall meet as often as it deems necessary in closed session to consider each application.
- 7.3. The Selection Committee shall forward their recommendation to the RCCC President for presentation at the next available RCCC Board of Directors meeting or consent vote.
- 7.4. The RCCC Board of Directors shall vote on the recommendation from the Selection Committee.
- 7.5. Results will be announced at the next Annual RCCC Awards and Recognition event. In the event there is no banquet, the RCCC Board of Directors shall determine an appropriate method of announcement for the award.
- 7.6. The Selection Committee shall use the following process to evaluate each application:
 - 7.6.1. Selection criteria shall be point based to ensure a fair and efficient process for each application.
 - 7.6.2. The Selection Committee shall embargo all evaluation results and discussions until the RCCC Board of Directors announces the award.
 - 7.6.3. The Selection Committee shall use the following criterion to evaluate each application:
 - 7.6.3.1. Does the application have the required documentation as required by this policy? (20 points)

- 7.6.3.2. How well does the essay show the intent to pursue a career that enhances their leadership abilities or provides a service to the community?
- 7.6.3.3. How well does the essay explain their career choice, and reasoning for that career choice? (25 points)
- 7.6.3.4. How well does the essay explain how the Explorer Post experience prepared them for their career choice? (30 points)
- 7.6.3.5. Is the applicant the recipient of an Explorer Volunteer of the Year award? (10-point bonus)

8. Conditions of Use

- 8.1. The scholarship is to be used for study at an educational institution that normally maintains faculty and curriculum, and has a regularly organized body of students.
- 8.2. A recipient may use award funds for tuition, fees, course-required books, supplies and equipment, room, board, or travel that is incidental to the purposes of the scholarship.

