
Camp and Scholarship Program

You may be eligible to apply for Camp and Scholarship benefits for your eligible dependents. This section gives you a detailed explanation of the Camp and Scholarship Program.

Camp and Scholarship Program

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Camp and Scholarship Program



Who Is Eligible and When

If you are a Wage Class I member, your dependent children are eligible for the Camp Program, if:

- ◆ you have been in the Fund for one year as of February 28 (this one-year requirement does not apply to newly-organized members or to members who opt out of their employer's plan and into the Benefit Fund Program provided the member is actively employed and not on probation),
- ◆ your dependent children are enrolled for benefit coverage and
- ◆ your children are between the ages of 8 and 15 as of July 1 of the year in which they apply.

Only one child from a family may go through the Camp Program in a given year (except in the case of twins).

Applying for the Program

You must complete an application form. Forms are available at the Fund Office beginning December 30.

Applications must be post-marked no later than March 15 for the coming year. We strongly advise that you send forms by certified mail.

The selection process requires a personal interview by camp personnel. You or your spouse must accompany your child. There is a \$10 registration fee (the fee will be refunded if your child is not accepted into the program).

Campers are selected based on available funding, seniority in the Fund, acceptance by the camp, and prior use of the benefit.

About the Camps in the Program

The camp program is a two-week overnight stay at a camp approved by the American Camping Association (ACA). All camps must meet the strict standard of the ACA. Each camp is evaluated for:

- ◆ ratio of campers to counselors,
- ◆ health regulations and
- ◆ variety of programs.

Benefits may be available for ACA-approved camps for children with special needs and disabilities.

The Camp benefit is not a guaranteed benefit since funding is limited. The Fund's decisions for selection of campers are final.

Scholarship Program



About the Scholarship Program

The Thomas Breslin Scholarship Program provides scholarships to members' children who are in post-secondary schools.

One member, Toai Lam, expressed her appreciation for the scholarship her child received this way:

“This scholarship is very significant to both my daughter and me. The money received has provided us with a great deal of help. But it is not just about the money—it also shows that the Fund cares about our children’s education and makes it easier for them to fulfill their dreams...”

Who Is Eligible and When

Your dependent children are eligible if:

- ◆ You are a Wage Class I member and you have been in the Fund for one year as of February 28. The one-year requirement does not apply to newly-organized members or to members who opt out of their employer’s plan and into the Benefit Fund Program, provided the member is actively employed and not on probation. You must remain an active member in the Fund through the date the scholarship award is announced.

and

- ◆ Your dependents meet each of these requirements:
 - age 23 or younger as of September 1 of the fall semester,
 - has been or is enrolled as a dependent under your coverage,
 - attends or plans to attend a school acceptable to the Fund for the fall/spring semester of the current or upcoming year,
 - applies for State (PHEAA) and Federal (PELL) grants and
 - has graduated from high school no more than one full academic year before entrance to a post-secondary school.

If your child meets these requirements, your child may apply for an award each year for up to four years, provided your eligibility for Wage Class I benefits is uninterrupted.

Students who have been granted an award must reapply each undergraduate year.

Applying for the Program

Initial application forms for the Thomas Breslin Scholarship Program are available at the Benefit Fund Office, beginning December 30.

Forms must be post-marked no later than March 15 for the coming school year. We strongly advise that you send forms by certified mail. If you bring your form to the Fund Office, request a receipt.

Once you have completed and returned the initial form, you will receive an official scholarship application. Your child and a representative from his or her high school must complete this application and return it to the Benefit Fund Office by the deadline designated by the Fund.

If both parents are covered by the plan, each parent may submit a scholarship application for eligible dependent children.

Description of the Award

The Trustees of the Benefit Fund determine:

- ◆ rules for eligibility and participation,
 - ◆ who receives the annual awards,
 - ◆ the number of awards, based on available funds and number of applicants and
 - ◆ whether a particular school is acceptable to the Fund.
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The scholarship benefit is not a guaranteed benefit since funding is limited. The Benefit Fund's decisions for selection are final.

The Trustees' decisions are based on:

- ◆ financial need, taking into account wages and number of dependents,
 - ◆ your seniority in the Fund and
 - ◆ the student's grades.
-

The decision of the Trustees is final and binding.

Acceptable Schools

The Scholarship Committee will determine if the school is acceptable. Accredited schools include:

- ◆ two and four year colleges,
- ◆ business schools,
- ◆ nursing schools,
- ◆ technical trade schools and
- ◆ art and design schools.

Additionally, accredited schools will be evaluated for their financial stability relative to their student loan default ratio.

How Awards Are Paid

The award is paid in equal installments each semester (or trimester) of the academic year. The maximum scholarship award is for eight semesters (or 12 semesters if the school is on a trimester schedule). The summer semester is not eligible for this award.

Your child must meet eligibility requirements at the time the award is granted and at the time subsequent semester installments are paid.

Full-time status is defined as a minimum of 12 credits. Part-time status is greater than 3 credits. Awards are pro-rated for part-time students.

Breaks in Attendance

If there is a lapse between the time your child graduates from high school and enters a post-secondary school, he/she may still apply for the award, provided the break is less than one academic year.

If there is a valid reason, a break in attendance of one academic year is permitted once your child begins undergraduate study. If your child's break in attendance is longer than one academic year for medical reasons, he/she may still be eligible for an award, provided the illness is confirmed by a physician.

If your child receives an award, he/she will need to submit proof of attendance at a post-secondary school.

Notification

If your child is chosen to receive the award, the Committee will confirm that you are still an active participant in the Fund. The Committee will then notify all applicants by mail.

If your child receives an award, he/she must submit proof of attendance at a post-secondary institution and other information by the date established by the Board of Trustees for the fall and spring semesters.

Once proof of attendance and student status have been verified, the Fund Office will make payment. Payment will be issued to the student and the school.

When Coverage Ends and Plan Information

The *Eligibility and Enrollment* section provides detailed information about when coverage ends and how benefits are affected by certain situations, such as disability.

The *Plan Information and Rights* section contains facts about how benefits are administered and your rights.