

XIII. Dakota Riptide Scholarship Program

Program Purpose:

The Dakota Riptide is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing community-based aquatics through the sport of competitive swimming for children in the greater Mitchell/Huron area. To that end the Dakota Riptide has created a scholarship program for children who wish to participate but are not financially able to do so. The following information outlines the program, eligibility requirements, and obligations on the part of the scholarship recipients.

A. Applicant Criteria:

Those wishing to apply for Scholarships must currently receive one of the following benefits or have extenuating circumstances that may require a need for assistance.

1. Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch Program
2. Medicaid Recipient
3. Extenuating Circumstances
4. No outstanding balances greater than 60 days old with the DAKOTA RIPTIDE.

B. Application Process:

1. Applicants must fill out the attached Scholarship Application Form within 10 days of opening the fall or Summer Season. Scholarship Forms may be obtained via the DAKOTA RIPTIDE website; www.dakotariptide.org or through the team's Head Coach.
2. Applicants must complete the Scholarship Form and return it to the address listed on the application.

C. Review and Disbursement of Funds:

1. Each application will be reviewed by the DAKOTA RIPTIDE Co-Presidents and Treasurer. All applications are kept confidential, and only the DAKOTA RIPTIDE Co-Presidents and Treasurer will review scholarship applications.
2. Each Scholarship is funded for the season applied for (Fall or Summer Session). All scholarship responsibilities outlined below will need to be followed or applicant is not eligible for any further scholarship assistance.

D. Scholarship Benefits:

It is the goal of Dakota Riptide to fund each applicant that applies for assistance with our organization. Every effort is made to raise the monies that are necessary to fund all applications. Through the generosity of local businesses and organizations, Dakota Riptide strives to fund every application and an amount is budgeted each year for this process. Each

scholarship that is funded receives the following benefits:

1. **Membership Fees:** Scholarship Applicants will receive complete payment of the Dakota Riptide Membership Fee for the season they have applied for assistance. As outlined above, Scholarships are funded for each season (Fall and Summer) and the applicant must indicate on the scholarship form and which season they wish to apply for.
2. **USA Swimming Fee:** The Dakota Riptide is governed by a national organization called USA Swimming. Each Dakota Riptide member is required to pay an annual membership fee as part of their membership dues. It is the obligation of the **applicant** to pay the USA Swimming Fee required as part of membership to the Dakota Riptide. If the applicant is only applying for the summer session, the fee is reduced and is termed a “seasonal swimmer”, this fee is due and owing at the time the scholarship application is approved.
3. **Swim Meet Fees:** Each competition or meet that is attended by any swimmer has fees associated with it. The Dakota Riptide will pick-up all applicable meet fees (head tax, event fees, facility use fees) for any home meets hosted by the Dakota Riptide. Any other meets that a scholarship recipient attends will be the sole responsibility of the applicant.

E. Scholarship Responsibilities:

1. **Volunteering:** As a member of the Dakota Riptide, all members have an obligation to volunteer their time at meets, and any other Dakota Riptide function where volunteer help is needed to complete team functions. Scholarship recipients are required and encouraged to volunteer their time whenever asked.
2. **Fundraising:** Fundraising is the primary means of financing the team, paying our coaches, and operating costs. Dakota Riptide conducts fundraisers during the year in which all families are obligated to participate in. This is a critical part of the swim family’s responsibility for vital and healthy swim club. **See Fundraising Policies**
3. **USA Swimming Membership Fee** (see above)
4. **Away Swim meet Fees** (if applicant so chooses to attend, however, not required)
5. **Swimming equipment, practice and competition suit, cap and goggles.**

F. Scholarship Application Frequently Asked Questions

● **May I submit my application via email?**

Yes, applications may be submitted via e-mail to the Treasurer or Board President, a list of current e-mail addresses of DAKOTA RIPTIDE Officers can be found on the DAKOTA RIPTIDE web-site. You can also submit your application via mail or in person to the team’s Treasurer.

● **When will I be notified if chosen to receive the funds?**

You will be notified within 10 days of your application by the President.

- **Am I eligible to receive monies two years in a row?**

Yes, however application must be made for each swim session

- **How many scholarships will be given out each year?**

Scholarships are limited to the amount budgeted each year and the availability of funds. The scholarship committee is charged with raising monies for scholarships, and every effort is made to fund each scholarship. If the amount of scholarships exceeds available funds, then each applicant will receive an equal amount of funds available.

- **Is my information and application kept confidential?**

Yes! Only the Board President and Treasurer review and approve the applications. All information is kept in strict confidence neither the coaching staff nor any other Board Members know who has been awarded a scholarship.

- **What are the Membership Fees?**

Membership fees are broken down by age group and the number of swimmers in each family. A complete fee schedule is listed on the website.

- **Who is USA Swimming and why do I have to pay the fee?**

USA Swimming is the governing body for all Local Swim Clubs. Membership in USA swimming provides our liability insurance, training for officials and supports local clubs with information and assistance.

- **Fundraising Policies:** The Fundraising committee sets the fundraisers of the year along with the rules and obligation(s) per family. Which may include, but not limited to:

- Calendar Raffle
- July Calendar Sales (sell each day of month)
- Hosting Swim Meets
- Various fundraising opportunities provided through community organizations
- Grants
- Donations

Policy for Calendar Raffle

All families will be required to sell a required number of calendars annually. During November each family will receive their allotted number of calendars, set forth by the Fundraising Committee and Board of Directors. If a family chooses to begin swimming with Dakota Riptide after December 1st, the family will be assessed the entire amount of the calendar obligation as a fundraising fee. All calendar sales and monies are due on January 7th (approximate) of each year. Calendars will not be distributed for sales after the January 7th deadline.

Policy for Disbursement of Calendar Raffle

The following shall be the policy of the Mitchell/Huron area Dakota Riptide in accordance with distribution of Calendar monies to members of Dakota Riptide.

1. Members must have sold their required allotment and each calendar paid in full.
2. If the member wishes to pay the fundraising fee and waive selling calendars, that money is due and owed at the designated deadline for turning in calendars.

Dakota Riptide will not distribute any winnings to Riptide families unless the above two criteria are satisfactorily met. Questions about this policy can be directed to the Dakota Riptide Board of Directors.



Dakota Riptide Scholarship Application Form

Return completed applications to: Dakota Riptide Head Coach or Board President
Emails and more info located on website: www.dakotariptide.org

Date of Application: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Current Employer: _____

Phone: _____

Name of Swimmer's Applying for Scholarship:

1. Name: _____ Age: _____

2. Name: _____ Age: _____

3. Name: _____ Age: _____

4. Name: _____ Age: _____

Season for which you are Applying for Scholarship:

(Please Check)

Fall: _____ Summer: _____

Please Check the Scholarship Category:

_____ Full Funding _____ Partial Funding

Please check all that apply:

_____ Recipient of Free or Reduced Price Lunches:

_____ Medicaid Recipient:

Please outline any extenuating circumstances that would qualify you for scholarship monies:

As a potential recipient of a Dakota Riptide Scholarship I understand that I am required to volunteer, complete mandatory fundraising requirements, and pay all applicable USA Swimming Fees. I agree to the above commitments and understand if I do not fulfill these requirements, I could forfeit my scholarship monies.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Dakota Riptide President

Date