



Greater Pensacola Aquatic Club ASCHERFELD ENDOWMENT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

- I. PURPOSE: MADE POSSIBLE BY DONATION FROM RAY AND CAROL ASCHERFELD, TO HELP NEW SWIMMERS AND CURRENT GPAC MEMBERS WITH A DEMONSTRATABLE FINANCIAL NEED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SWIM, TRAIN, AND COMPETE AT A HIGH LEVEL.

Biography and History:

Ray is still a lifelong competitive swimmer, beginning at the YMCA in Washington, D.C. at age 14. He swam through high school, then took a hiatus in the first years of college at the University of Maryland. U of MD began a collegiate swim team in 1955, he joined, swam and served as co-captain until graduating with a degree in civil engineering.

Serving in the U.S. Navy, he was commissioned and trained as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer, and dove in exercises in the Pacific theater, using his swimming skills. Upon his discharge, he joined his mother in her native Pensacola to begin his career in the road construction business. His swimming was put on hold while he worked and raised a family.

Swimming came back into play when the children became old enough to join GPAC. Ray served GPAC in all facets, serving on the board of directors, organizing and directing swim meets, and anything that needed to be done. Some swim meets held at Pensacola Junior College (now, Pensacola State College) had over 600 swimmers!

In 1980 he began to coach the first Tate High School swim team as a volunteer. In the early 1990's, a career change allowed Ray to swim with the GPAC masters team lasting to this date, now as the PSC Pirates. In 2021, he successfully competed in both the short and long-course U. S. Masters Swimming National Championships. With his second wife Carol of 40 years, their hope is this endowment will enable children with financial needs to participate in the wonderful sport of competitive swimming.

II. POLICY

- Open to current GPAC members and to the local community when no other scholarship opportunity applies.
- The length of time and amount of scholarship is approved by the board of directors upon recommendation of the Head Coach and scholarship committee.
- This scholarship is renewable annually, by application, and may cover financial obligations for a period of up to one calendar year:
 - Training fees
 - Home meet fees
 - Required training equipment
 - One team swim suit per calendar year
 - Two GPAC swim caps per calendar year
- Total program funding is determined by the Ray & Carol Ascherfeld Endowment.
- Scholarship must be requested by the member in accordance with this policy using applicable forms.
- Open to current GPAC members and the local community.
- No swimmer shall receive more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the available funds in any given year.
- Funds are not transferred but dispersed as a discount on training fees, meet fees, and/or required gear.
- Current GPAC swimmers must meet a minimum practice attendance of 60% over the previous year.
- New swimmers must commit to a minimum practice attendance of 60% during the time period on scholarship.
- Failing to meet a minimum practice attendance of 60% for a period of 30-days, without acceptable justification, may be used as grounds to remove the swimmer(s) from the scholarship program.
- Family must EXCEED all Fundraising & Team Support/Volunteer requirements while on scholarship.

III. QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Must have a severe financial hardship, be at/below official poverty level or be individually eligible for the school lunch program.
 - Appropriate support must be provided upon request (I.E. Pay stubs, tax returns, etc.)
- The following characteristics will be considered by the board of directors and may require documentation and/or interview, as appropriate:
 - Swimmers must be able to demonstrate respect for their coaches and teammates.
 - Swimmers must be able to demonstrate a positive attitude toward swimming and a disciplined work ethic.
 - Swimmers must be able to successfully complete a team tryout (for initial qualification, if not already a GPAC team member).

Greater Pensacola Aquatic Club

Scholarship Information & Application

Swimmer/Family Information

Swimmer(s) to be considered: _____

Scholarship for which you are applying: _____

Length of time on the team: _____

Swim groups(s): _____

Parents/guardian: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Other Swimmers in household: _____

If account balance is past due (and if have you arranged a payment plan: _____

* If applying for a sudden hardship or Ascherfeld Endowment scholarships, please provide appropriate documentation.

* If applying for a graduating senior scholarship, please submit proof of GPA/transcripts, essay, volunteer hours documentation.

The applicant is welcome to attach additional information for consideration by the Scholarship Committee.

Swimmer Signature (only required for Senior Scholarship Award)

Date

Parent/Guardian #1 Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian #2 Signature

Date

Approved: July 15, 2025

Greater Pensacola Aquatic Club

Scholarship Information & Application

For Office Use Only

Date Paperwork Received: _____

Years on Team Requirement: _____

Attendance Requirement: _____

Fundraising Requirement: _____

Team Support Requirement: _____

Community Service Requirement: _____

Team Function Requirements: _____

Proof of Hardship: _____

Proof of High School GPA (please attach): _____

Essay (please attach): _____

Notes: _____

Signatures of Scholarship Committee

Name Signature Date

Name Signature Date

Name Signature Date

Name Signature Date

Name Signature Date

Approved: July 15, 2025