

The Jennifer Leigh Smith Swimming Scholarship

*Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved,
that they may have strength to meet the days ahead
in the comfort of a holy and certain hope,
and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.*

The Lutheran Book of Worship

Jennifer Leigh Smith was a talented and extraordinary swimmer whose untimely death was a tragic loss to all those who knew her and especially to the competitive swimming community. The most coveted and prestigious honor awarded by South Carolina Swimming now carries her name. In 1999, the Smith family, in conjunction with The Spartanburg Foundation, established the Jennifer Leigh Smith Memorial Swimming Scholarship Fund in the hope of eventually endowing a scholarship in Jennifer's name for a South Carolina swimmer. That endowment has reached a level where awarding a scholarship is possible, and applications are now being solicited from high school seniors who intend to swim in college.

The scholarship will be in the amount of Three Thousand dollars (\$3,000.00). It is targeted toward South Carolina swimmers who love the sport of swimming, the competition, the commitment, but who have not been able to make the highly competitive times senior swimming requires and which Jennifer was able to achieve. It is directed to those swimmers who love the sport just as much, but have fewer avenues of obtaining funding that will allow them to continue their sport in college. In other words, the ideal recipient will be a swimmer who has the talent and commitment to swim in college, but who is unlikely to be awarded an athletic scholarship by their chosen school to further this hope.

Application forms are available for downloading on the South Carolina Swimming website: www.sc-swimming.org. The application, along with a short personal essay, three letters of recommendation, and transcripts must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 7, 2025. Eventually, family income information and/or the Department of Education Student Aid Report will need to be submitted. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the South Carolina Swimming All-State Banquet in Rock Hill on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Any questions should be directed to executive director Price Atkinson at price.atkinson@gmail.com. Please note Jennifer Smith Scholarship in the subject line.

2025 Jennifer Smith Scholarship Application Instructions

- 1) Complete the Scholarship Application form.
- 2) Provide Letters of Recommendation from:
 - a - your Guidance counselor
 - b - a teacher
 - c - your swim coach
- 3) Provide a copy of your high school transcripts.
- 4) Provide a short essay (250 - 500 words) on why you want to swim in college.

The completed application packet should be mailed (postmarked no later than Friday, March 7, 2025) to:

South Carolina Swimming
Attention: Jennifer Smith Scholarship
PO Box 460
Six Mile, SC 29682

Following submission of the Application packet, applicants should periodically check the South Carolina Swimming website for information regarding submission of family income information.

Jennifer Smith Scholarship Application 2025

Personal Information (to be completed by applicant)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H): _____ (C) _____

E-Mail _____

Father's Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Applicant's Date of Birth ____/____/____

Colleges to which Applicant has been accepted:

Colleges to which Applicant has applied:

School Related Activities:

School Related Honors and Awards:

Academic:

Athletic:

Other:

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Community and Volunteer Activities – Reference Form

Up to *Four* References {Supervisors or Community Leaders of Applicant} utilizing this page must be submitted with application

Reference Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Was the applicant a leader or participant?

As a leader, what did the applicant do that was creative or innovative?

If primarily a participant, how did applicant make an impact?

Discuss the applicant's attendance at projects and activities, work effort, energy level, and commitment to projects and organization.

Thank you for your assistance. Please sign and date below:

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Coach Evaluation Form

Coach Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Name of Club/Team: _____

In order to obtain a clear picture of your applicant's abilities and talents please provide ***specific examples*** of the following qualities/traits:

1. Leadership in team setting
2. Commitment to sport and team
3. Willingness to encourage younger swimmers
4. Demonstration of respect for other swimmers, team rules, parents/volunteers
5. The applicant's coachability
6. List honors, awards, highest level of achievement in swimming

(Coach's evaluation form continued from previous page)

Even the strongest swimmers have areas of difficulty. Please describe a significant challenge(s) the applicant might have experienced. Also, how have they been able to overcome adversity?

Thank you for your assistance. Please sign and date below:

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Guidance Counselor Form

Name of Guidance Official: _____

Day Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Name of High School: _____

High School Address: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Cumulative Weighted GPA: _____ Unweighted GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____

SAT Scores: _____ ACT Score: _____

Additional information you can offer regarding the applicant:

Please attach an official transcript of the student's last seven semesters of high school work

Thank you for your assistance. Please sign and date below:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

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Applicant Input Form
(to be completed by applicant)

How did you start competitive swimming? Please list all teams (summer league, school, USA Club) upon which you have competed.

Why do you swim competitively?

How many years have you swum on your team?

Tell us something about yourself, not previously covered in this application which you would like the committee to know. Use the back of this page or a separate document if you need additional space.

I understand that any false information provided to the committee by me may disqualify me from consideration for this award.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____