

2018 MERIT AWARD

The American Sokol Merit Award is being handled by the National Educational Committee and is now accepting applications for the 2016 Merit Awards. Eligible students are those who are planning a full time (at least 12 hours per semester or equivalent) course program in an accredited two-year or four-year college or who are already participating in such a course of study. The amount to be awarded is \$1,000.00. There are no merit award renewals. The application process begins with the submission of the form below to obtain application forms and instructions.

If the recipient fails to submit such a transcript or fails to complete the full year of study for which the award was granted, the recipient is obliged to repay, in full, the Merit Award.

The selections are made by the Merit Award Committee and approved by the American Sokol District Educational Directors and the American Sokol Executive Board. The following points will be considered by the Committee in selecting the candidates:

1. Educational Activities – Sokol and/or other cultural activities.
2. Service to Sokol – Unit, District and/or National.
3. Participation in Sokol events and activities – Unit, District and/or National
4. Community involvement
5. Essay
6. Recommendation of the Unit Educational Director, Physical Director or President.

2018 Merit Award

Applications can be downloaded from the American Sokol web-site. www.American-Sokol.org.

If requesting by mail, please send this completed page to: Merit Award Committee, c/o American Sokol, 9126 Ogden Ave. Brookfield, IL, 60513 or e-mail ASO@AMERICAN-SOKOL.ORG

I desire to make application for the American Sokol Merit Award.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
My age is _____ years. I am a member of Sokol _____

APPLICATION
REQUESTS SHOULD
BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN
APRIL 1, 2018

APPLICATIONS ARE
DUE JUNE 1, 2018

Should you need guidance filling out this application, please refer questions to your Unit or District Educator.

American Sokol National Merit Award

This is an award being offered to members since 1975 paid by the American Sokol Future Sokol Leaders Fund. The Merit Award is designed to assist American Sokol Members in their pursuit of higher education. This is for any member of the organization planning on going full time to an accredited two-year or four year college. Applicants for this award need not be limited to those who just recently graduated from high school. The application process gets announced in the January publication stating how an applicant can receive an application. All forms can be downloaded from the National website with information, deadlines and all requirements. (You may request forms be mailed to you by contacting the American Sokol Office.) Application and all required components must be received by June 1st. This award can be applied for an unlimited number of times but can be received only once.

◆◆◆ RETAIN THIS PAGE FOR YOUR FILES ◆◆◆

The XII American Sokol Convention (June 1975) instituted Merit Awards to be paid from the American Sokol Future Leaders Fund. Youth or adult American Sokol members who are planning a full-time (at least two semesters of 12 hours per semester or equivalent) course or program in an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or who are already participating in such a course of study may apply. Application must be made in advance of the year of study. **Applicants may apply for any year of their studies (not just Freshman year).**

The amount to be awarded is \$1,000.00 to one student per year per district. However, additional merit awards may be awarded “at large” to qualified applicants if other districts do not utilize them. The award is good for one year. An individual may receive only one award, and no renewal is available.

A transcript of grades indicating completion of a full year of full-time study must be submitted to the American Sokol Merit Award Committee. If the recipient fails to submit such a transcript or fails to complete the full year of study for which the award was granted, the recipient is obliged to repay the Merit Award in full.

The selections are made by the Merit Award Committee and approved by the American Sokol Educational Committee and the American Sokol Executive Board. The following may be considered by the Merit Award Committee in selecting the candidates:

7. Educational Activities – Ethnic schools and activities, dance groups, presentations to other groups on Sokol history or other topics, etc.
8. Unit Participation – Unit volunteerism, community events to promote your Sokol Unit at the local level.
9. District Participation – District volunteerism, other events to promote your Sokol District
10. National Participation – National volunteerism, committee member, other events to promote the ASO.
11. Gym Participation – Gym class instruction or assistance, schools, gym class participation, camps, clinics, Slets, etc.
12. Other Community Activities – volunteer opportunities, civic organizations, etc.
13. Recommendation of the Unit Educational Director, Physical Director or President.

The recipient of the Merit Award and one parent or legal guardian (if under 18) are required to sign a receipt statement agreeing to the award’s application requirements.

Completed application, essay, wallet size photo and recommendation must be received by the American Sokol Merit Award Committee, 9126 Ogden Ave, Brookfield, Illinois 60513-1943 or e-mailed to ASO@AMERICAN-SOKOL.ORG by June 1 of the application year.

If mailing, must be received by June 1st (please note, you will also be required to submit your essay and a photograph for publication in the event you are an award recipient).



AMERICAN SOKOL MERIT AWARD

Date of Application: _____ For School Year Beginning: _____

1. Name of Applicant: _____

2. Home Address: _____

3. City: _____ E-Mail: _____

State: _____ Zip+4 _____ Phone: _____

4. Date of Birth: _____

5. Sokol Unit: _____ Member (Yes/No): _____

Year Applicant Enrolled in Sokol Gym: _____

If applicable, Year Applicant Initiated as Adult Member: _____

6. Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

7. High School Attended: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

8. Name of College or University Planning to Attend: _____

9. Field of Study/Major: _____

10. Activities and Participation (Be specific: dates, type of activity, as much detail as possible). Use additional sheets if necessary.

- a. **Educational Activities:** Ethnic schools, activities, dance groups, musical groups, or theater groups, Sokol history (or other) presentations, etc.:

(Continued on next Page)

b. Unit Participation: Unit fundraisers, membership drives, building help unit officer, parades and other community events to promote your Sokol Unit at the local level. (do not included gym activities, slet participation, instructor clinics, schools or camps at this time)

c. District Participation: District fundraising, attendance at a district meetings (non-BOI) and other events to promote your Sokol District (Do not include slet participation, instructor clinics, schools or camps at this time.):

d. National Participation: National volunteerism, Convention delegate/observer, national committee member, development conference and other events to promote the American Sokol Organization. (Do not include slet participation, instructor clinics, schools and camps at this time.): _____

e. Gym Participation: Instructor clinics and schools – include unit, district and national, unit BOI board officer, junior board/gym club membership – include positions held if applicable, Sokol camps, sports clinics, USAG, Slets – include capacity – participant, volunteer, marshal, spectator, judging history – include # of years and what you judged, routine composition – cals, apparatus, special numbers, etc., teaching or assisting experience in Sokol gym programs – include level, # of year, title, regular attendance in Sokol classes, etc.

f. Other Community Activities: (Be specific: dates, type of activity, as much detail as possible.) Non-Sokol activities such as Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity or other volunteer opportunities, civic Organizations, etc. _____

11. On a separate sheet, write an original paragraph (essay) answering the question, “*What are 1 or 2 positive Sokol experiences that have impacted your life?*”, using one side of one page, double spaced.

RECOMMENDATION

Please contact your Unit Educational Director, Unit Physical Director or Unit President requesting a recommendation. Return this name and contact information with your application. If a recommendation is not received or postmarked by June 1st, the application for this award will be incomplete.

Name: _____

Office Held: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I have requested and they have agreed to write on my behalf a letter of recommendation for this application. My requestor understands that my letter of recommendation needs to be postmarked or e-mailed by June 1st.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Date

IMPORTANT! Application, essay, wallet size photo, and recommendation MUST be received or postmarked by June 1ST. Make a COPY of your application. Forward these required materials well in advance of the deadline to ASO@AMERICAN-SOKOL.ORG or if mailing, must be postmarked by June 1st to: American Sokol, 9126 Ogden Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513-1943

Give this page to your Unit Educational Director, Unit Physical Director or Unit President.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation/comments of Unit Educational Director, Unit Physical Director or Unit President. – *Confidential*

NOTE: The Unit Educational Director, Unit Physical Director or Unit President, in this recommendation, will ascertain whether or not the applicant is a member in good standing, financial and/or otherwise. Please include what kind of leadership qualities the applicant possesses.

Signature

Title

Date

I have validated the good standing (financial and/or otherwise) of the member contained in this application.

Return completed recommendation post-marked by June 1st to:

AMERICAN SOKOL
Merit Award Committee
9126 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513-1943

Or e-mail completed recommendation by June 1st to:

ASO@AMERICAN-SOKOL.ORG

Include Merit Award Committee in subject line

CRITERIA FOR AMERICAN SOKOL MERIT AWARD

Maximum score available is 75 points. Achieving 80% of all available points IS THE MINIMUM STANDARD for receiving the American Sokol Merit Award. This was determined by the following:

- a. Past awardees have scored above that point value.
- b. Most units and districts provide numerous opportunities for active involvement.
- c. Discussion will be held on those who do not meet the minimum if “at large” awards are available.

The following is a list of categories used to determine scores from each committee member:

- a. Educational Activities
- b. Unit Participation
- c. District Participation
- d. National Participation
- e. Gym Participation
- f. Other Community Activities
- g. “What are 1 or 2 positive Sokol experiences that have impacted your life?”
- h. Overall leadership points

The American Sokol Merit Award committee members participate in the selection process. Each committee member assigns points to each of the categories based on a blind reading of all applications submitted and received by the deadline listed on the application by a non-voting American Sokol member.