

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 or university. 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/February publication stating how an applicant can receive an application. All forms can be downloaded from the National website with information, deadlines and all requirements. 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.

2019 MERIT AWARD

The American Sokol Merit Award is being administered by the National Educational Committee and is now accepting applications for the 2019 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/university or who are already participating in such a course of study. The amount to be awarded is \$1,000.00 per student. There are no merit award renewals. Applicants may apply for any year of their studies, not just freshman year.

The selections are made by the American Sokol Educational Committee and then approved by the American Sokol Executive Board. The committee will consider the following criteria in selecting the candidates for their recommendation to the Executive Board:

- a. Cultural and Educational Activities – Ethnic schools and activities, dance groups. Theater, presentations to Sokol classes or other groups on Sokol history, traditions, or other topics.
- b. Unit participation- unit membership, volunteerism, and community events to promote your Sokol unit at the local level.
- c. District and National Participation- district and national activity in clinics, slets, competitions, courses, committees, or other activities to promote your Sokol district and American Sokol.
- d. Board of Instruction Participation at the unit level- gym class participation, gym class instructor or assistant, participation in clinics, slets, or competitions, and camps.
- e. Community and Extracurricular Activities- Scouts, Civic organizations, service projects, and volunteer opportunities.
- f. Personal Essay
- g. Overall Leadership- Letter of recommendation from either the Unit President, Unit Educational Director, or Unit Physical Director.

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

Completed application, essay, wallet size photo, and letter of recommendation must be received by the American Sokol Award Committee, 9126 Ogden Ave. Brookfield ILL 60513-1943 or emailed to ASO@American –Sokol.org by June 1st of the application year

Assistance with the application process can be obtained by contacting your district or unit educational director.



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/Prep 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. Cultural and Educational Activities: Ethnic schools, cultural activities, dance groups, musical groups, theater, presentations to Sokol classes or other groups on Sokol history, traditions or other topics.

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

c. District Participation and National Participation: District and/or National Slet participation as a competitor /spectator, District Clinics, National Board of Instructor School, National or District Camp, attendance at a district meetings, Youth ambassador, Convention delegate/ observer, and other events to promote American Sokol.

d. Board of Instructor Participation at Unit Level: Gym classes, Clinics, Camps, Slets- include roles: participant, volunteer, spectator, competitor, counselor; Classes taught – include level, #of years and title (assistant, head instructor), Judging history –include #of times and what you judged.

e. Other Community & Extracurricular Activities: Non Sokol Activities such as Scouts, National Honor Society service projects, Habitat for Humanity, Civic organizations or other volunteer opportunities.

f. On a separate sheet, type an original essay on the subject, “*What are 1 or 2 positive Sokol experiences that have impacted my life?*” Use only one side of one page, double- spaced.

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

2019

CRITERIA FOR AMERICAN SOKOL MERIT AWARD

Maximum score available is 70 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 candidates if there is an average discrepancy of more than ten points between the scores of at least three evaluators.
- d. Discussion will be held if there is more than one applicant eligible from a district to make an at-large award if one is available.

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

- a. Educational Activities
- b. Unit Participation
- c. District and National Participation
- d. Board of Instructor Activities at unit level
- e. Other Community Activities
- f. "Personal Essay
- g. 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.