

Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA)

Empowering Alaskans through Water Safety, Education, and Competitive Spirit

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Need-Based Scholarship Policy

Effective Date: October 22, 2025

Approved By: AFA Board of Directors

Last Reviewed: October 22, 2025

1. Purpose

The Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA) is committed to ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent participation in our aquatic programs.

This policy outlines the process and criteria for awarding need-based scholarships to qualified athletes and families.

Scholarships reflect AFA's mission to make water safety, fitness, and competitive swimming accessible to all Alaskans.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all AFA programs, including:

- Yeti Swim School
- Yeti Youth Competitive Team (Apprentice, Warrior, Gladiator, Gladiator Fit)
- Yeti Legends

Scholarships may cover partial or full program fees based on financial need and available funding.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Scholarship eligibility is determined by demonstrated financial need and commitment to the AFA program. Applicants must:

1. Be in good standing with AFA (attendance, conduct, and payment history).
2. Submit a completed **Scholarship Application Form** each season.
3. Provide proof of income or financial circumstances (e.g., recent pay stubs, tax forms, or assistance documentation).
4. Agree to maintain consistent attendance and effort throughout the scholarship period.

5. Support team volunteer requirements or equivalent service hours when possible.

Failure to maintain these expectations may result in partial or full revocation of the scholarship.

4. Application Process

1. Applications are accepted **three times per year** — at the start of the Fall, Winter, and Summer sessions.
2. Applications must be submitted to scholarships@aquaticfoundationalaska.org or through the AFA office by the posted deadline.
3. The **AFA Scholarship Committee** reviews applications confidentially and determines awards based on available funding and demonstrated need.
4. All applicants will be notified of their scholarship status within two weeks of the application deadline.

Scholarship awards do not automatically renew — families must reapply each session.

5. Scholarship Awards

- Awards may cover up to **100% of monthly program fees**.
- Registration fees, meet fees, and travel costs are generally **not included**, unless specified.
- Funds are applied directly to the member's AFA account and cannot be transferred or refunded.

AFA reserves the right to adjust award amounts based on funding availability and the total number of applicants.

6. Confidentiality

All scholarship applications and financial documents are strictly confidential.

Information is reviewed only by the AFA Scholarship Committee and necessary administrative staff. Recipients' names or financial details will not be shared publicly.

7. Accountability of Recipients

Scholarship recipients are expected to:

- Maintain 80% attendance in their registered program.
- Demonstrate consistent effort and positive behavior.
- Volunteer at team events if able, or contribute in other approved ways.
- Communicate promptly with coaches or staff about any changes in availability or circumstances.

Failure to meet these expectations may result in early termination of the scholarship.

8. Funding Sources

AFA scholarships are funded through:

- Community donations
- Fundraising events
- Corporate sponsorships
- Designated grants and foundation support

Donations made toward scholarships are held in a restricted account used exclusively for financial aid awards.

9. Review and Reporting

- The **AFA Scholarship Committee** will track scholarship awards, funding levels, and participation impact.
 - Annual summaries (without personal data) will be reported to the AFA Board of Directors.
 - Policies and processes will be reviewed annually for transparency and compliance with nonprofit standards.
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Footer

Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA) — *Promoting safety, excellence, and inclusion through the power of water.*

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