Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma



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Jon B. Greene Grand Recorder

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 16, SERIES 2022-2023

To: The Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, The Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, and all Officers and Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Oklahoma and to Whomever it May Concern

This General order consists of the announcement of The Knights Templar Education Foundation, Division of Oklahoma Scholarship award winners.

The 2023 Knights Templar Education Foundation, Division of Oklahoma Scholarship committee has met and has gone through the scholarship applications. This year, we received twelve (12) girl and four (4) boy applications. The committee is pleased to announce the winners of the four (4) scholarships. Each will receive a \$1,500.00 scholarship which will be mailed to their institutions.

The two girls are: Haley Dennis and Courtney Harris. The two boys are: Aiden Murray and Garrett Blair

Mission Statement

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee considers all applications for scholarships without regard to age, race, religion, National origin, gender, of Masonic ties, or affiliations. These scholarships are not "grants in aid" but are open to all students regardless of their financial circumstances.

Purpose

Provide financial assistance to students who meet the required qualifications, which may vary from state to state.

History and transition of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation.

In 1922, the Grand Encampment launched the Knights Templar Educational Foundation with the words: "We feel that the Grand Encampment can build no greater monument nor inaugurate a more worthwhile movement than to establish a plan which will put into effect a plan which will provide educational advantages for the youth of our beloved country, thereby enabling them to become more useful members of society and better Citizens of the United States of America."

The Foundation was sustained and perpetuated by each Sir Knight paying the sum of \$1.00 annually for a period of nine years beginning July 1, 1924. This fund became available for student loans.

Through the years, the fund has grown, and Grants and Scholarships are available in several states. However, some states continue to use the Loan program where the student is expected to repay the loan at a low-interest rate. States have either Grants, Scholarships, or Loans but not both.

The need for Education

Education beyond high school is essential in a technological age. It may be obtained today in -

1. A vocational school that trains artisans and craftsmen.

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- 2. A technical school that prepares technicians for various specializations.
- 3. A professional school that offers preparation in medicine, law, theology, engineering, business, agriculture, and others.
- 4. Colleges and universities that give a firm foundation for business, trade, or profession.

The Record

Since its founding, the Knights Templar Educational Foundation has assisted more than 80,000 students for an aggregate monetary value of over 38 million dollars through Loans and Scholarships to deserving youth, thereby exemplifying the purpose and principles for which it was created.

This General Oder shall be read at the head of the lines in each Constituent Commandery at your first Stated Conclave after its receipt.

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Sir-Knight James R. Taylor, Jr. Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest:

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