



## **The PDSA College Scholarship Program Sponsored by the Platelet Disorder Support Association**

The PDSA strives to provide patient information and support through various avenues including its website, many publications, and annual and regional conferences. We realize that many ITP patients and their families struggle with the financial difficulty of living with a chronic disorder and the huge burden of medical bills, which is why the scholarship has been created. We also believe that education is the key to success.

### **Who is Eligible for the Scholarship?**

Awards are restricted to senior high school students, current college students, or adults interested in continuing education who have immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) or another confirmed low platelet disorder. The Scholarship award is intended to assist full-time undergraduate or graduate students entering or attending an accredited technical school, two- or four-year college, university or graduate school in the United States or Canada. The Applicant must be a U.S. or Canadian Citizen. There is no GPA requirement, however, the applicant must have acceptance to the college of their choice. Former Scholarship recipients are not permitted to reapply (those who have won book awards are still eligible). Family members of ITP patients, PDSA staff and their family members, PDSA board members and their family members, or the Scholarship committee judges and their family members are not eligible to apply.

### **Scholarship Funds**

Scholarship Funds will be awarded in a one-time payment as follows during the academic year. Payments will be made directly to the institution prior to the start of the fall semester.

- 1) First prize: \$1,500 and two (2) complimentary 2023 ITP Conference registrations
- 2) Second prize: \$1,000
- 3) Third prize: \$750

In addition, five (5) fourth place winners will be awarded \$250 each for textbooks payable to the individual winners upon presentation of receipts.

**\*The PDSA reserves the right to change eligibility criteria yearly and does not guarantee the availability of scholarship awards annually.**



## The Application Process

A 700-to-1,000-word essay is required which details how your platelet disorder has resulted in your growth as a person; what you learned about your own strengths and weaknesses. If you feel it's changed you, whether emotionally or physically, describe how it changed your approach to life and relationships. Summarize how having an illness might have affected your life's accomplishments and helped you set goals. If you feel that having a chronic illness has helped you choose a career path, illustrate how, and explain why you feel this way and what you have done to meet these educational goals. Describe how achieving your educational aspirations will positively impact your future plans, in light of the struggles that you face from your platelet disorder. **Do not include your name anywhere in the essay.**

Additionally, provide two written recommendation letters from adults who are not related to you.

**Please have the people writing the recommendation letters use 'he', 'she', or 'they' in place of the applicant's name throughout the letter. We want the scholarship selection committee to not be able to identify anyone by name. Be sure to notify them of the deadline of midnight EST, April 15, 2024.**

Each recommendation letter must be sent by the person writing the recommendation via e-mail directly to [Brenda Foster at bfoster@pdsa.org](mailto:bfoster@pdsa.org). **The scholarship applicant's name should be used in the Subject line only.**

Completed Application Forms, essay, and two letters of recommendation must be received (preferably by email) no earlier than March 1, 2024 and no later than midnight EST on April 15, 2024. Winners will be notified by May 31, 2024. *Incomplete or late Applications will not be considered.* Scholarship award winners will be announced at our annual ITP Conference and in our quarterly newsletter, *The Platelet News*. The essays and applications will be reviewed and judged by an impartial panel selected by the PDSA Board of Directors.

**PDSA College Scholarship Application**

Student's Full Name:

Address:

Birth Date:

Student's or Parent's E-mail Address:

Name of Diagnosed Platelet Disorder:

Parent(s)/ Guardian Name(s), if under eighteen:

Parent(s)/Guardian Address(s), if under eighteen:

Parent(s)/Guardian Phone Number(s), if under eighteen:

Student's Phone Number(s), if different:

What is the Name of the School you are attending now?

To which College or Technical School have you been accepted?

Names and contact information of persons writing letters of recommendation:



I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby state that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby affirm that I am a citizen of the United States or Canada, that I have received an acceptance letter from the above-mentioned college or institution, and that I meet eligibility criteria as defined above.

(Upon award notification, a recent photo (jpg format) may be requested for publication.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the application and return to (e-mail preferred):

Platelet Disorder Support Association  
*Attention: PDSA College Scholarship*  
8751 Brecksville Road, Suite 150  
Cleveland, OH 44141  
[bfoster@pdsa.org](mailto:bfoster@pdsa.org)