

# Sokol USA Farrell

## Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship

### Application Form



Brother Steve Banjak lived his whole life believing in and supporting the ideals of the Sokol movement founded by Ph.D. Miroslav Tyrš in the Czech Republic and established by Ivan Branislav Zoch in Slovakia. Brother Banjak was active in the gymnasium since he was introduced to Sokol when he was 14 years old; stopping only when his advanced age and health did not permit it. As President, he led our lodge for a period of 50 years to become one of the most successful lodges in the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA. Brother Banjak also held almost every office in District Svätopluk, including President. In 1958 he was President of the Committee responsible for the very successful XIII Slet held in Cleveland, Ohio. The lodge has unanimously voted to name this scholarship in his honor as a way to remember him for his many years of service to Sokol. The first recipient was announced at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the lodge at the Radisson Hotel on May 20, 2006.

NEW APPLICANT

RENEWAL APPLICANT

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                                      First Name                                      Middle Initial
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address                                      City, State, Zip
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_                                      4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of years member of Sokol Farrell                                      Telephone Number
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
High School and City where you received your diploma                                      Year Graduated
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
College/University to which you are accepted OR attending
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_                                      \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: Name and position/relationship to you                                      Reference Name and position/relationship to you

*Requirements to complete application follow:*

## **AWARD:**

As of 2023, Sokol Farrell has increased the award to \$2,500; allocated in the following manner: \$1,000 in the first year and then, annual installments of \$500 over the next 3 years, providing membership in Sokol Farrell and a grade point average of 2.0 (4.0 system) or above are maintained. All current recipients will receive a \$1,000 award in 2023 only.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

Eligibility for the "Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship" is as follows:

Should any one or more of the following requirements not be met, the application shall be considered incomplete and therefore will be disqualified.

1. A member in good standing of Sokol, USA in Farrell, PA for a minimum of three years.
2. High School diploma or equivalent.
3. Acceptance to an accredited school of higher education with degree programs. *A copy of a letter of acceptance to the school to which you plan to attend must accompany this application OR if you are already attending, an official transcript must accompany this application.*
4. Two letters of reference from non-related persons (at least one from a former teacher) attesting to the character and ability of the applicant. *The letters must accompany this application.*
5. Evidence of "service" either to Sokol or the community at large. *A letter from an official or person supervising your activity must accompany this application*
6. An essay of one page written in your own hand, describing an activity or event in your life in which you strove to accomplish a task as close to perfection as possible. ***Please use the attached sheet to write your essay.***
7. Include a current wallet size Senior or a passport type photo with your application.
8. A fully completed application may be delivered personally or U.S. Postal delivery to Sister Dorothy Slezak, Committee Chairperson; 6850 Seneca Road; Sharpsville, PA 16150; Phone: (724) 646 2844

## **DEADLINES:**

First year applicants: received no later than May 01 of each year.

Renewal applicants: received no later than June 01 of each year.

**Renewal applicants** need only to complete the first page of this application, excluding references, and send it prior to the deadline with a copy of your most current grades, including your grade point average, from the school currently being attended.

**Announcement:** All scholarships will be awarded at the annual meeting of Sokol Farrell, usually held the first Sunday in June in the Sokol meeting room at the Slovak Home in Farrell. **FIRST YEAR RECIPIENTS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.** All other recipients are also encouraged to attend this meeting.

**RELEASE:** By submitting this application, you hereby grant Sokol Farrell permission to use your likeness in a photograph in any and all publications, including Sokol Farrell web site and Facebook entries. You hereby authorize Sokol Farrell to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo for purposes of publicizing Sokol Farrell's programs or for any other lawful purpose. You understand and agree that these materials will become the property of Sokol Farrell and will not be returned.

**ADDITIONAL SOKOL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WHICH YOU ARE ELIGIBLE:**

As a member of Sokol in good standing, you are eligible and encouraged to also apply for the:

1. "Milan Getting Scholarship" which is granted by the National Office of Sokol USA; 301 Pine Street; P.O. Box 677; Boonton, NJ 07005-0677. Phone: 973-676-0281; e-mail at: [SOKOLUSAHQs@aol.com](mailto:SOKOLUSAHQs@aol.com); website: [http://www.sokolusa.org/index\\_ns.html](http://www.sokolusa.org/index_ns.html)
2. Various Scholarships granted by GBU Financial Life, the parent company of Sokol USA, which is located in Pittsburgh, PA. Toll Free: 1-800-765-4428; Website: <http://www.gbu.org/>

**PLEASE CHECK THE ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE FOR DEADLINES AS THEY MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN THE SOKOL FARRELL DEADLINE!**

**Previous Recipients of the Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship are:**

2006 Oleksandra Banjak

2008 Katie Shebeck

2010 Robin Platte

2012 Bibiana Murcko

Robin Platte

2015 Daniel Konopski

2017 Ava Glover

Roberta Pegg

Genevieve Schupp

Erin Slezak

Jenna Slezak

2007 Oleksandra Banjak

2009 Lucia Murcko

2011 Bibiana Murcko

2013 Daniel Konopski

2014 Sarah Goda

2016 Kaitlyn Slezak

Eric Konopski

2018 Kaitlyn Schupp

Drew Slezak

2019 Avery Slezak

Jacob Konopski

2020 Adrienne Schupp

Carley Slezak



**Our Motto: Break Through; Jump Over; Never Crawl Under!**

Sokol philosophy is quite different from prevailing contemporary thought. Sokol philosophy is an expression of... *democratic behaviors through self-discipline*, designed to guide individuals toward *goals* to which all people of good will are striving. It places great emphasis on *individual responsibility, individual performance and the individual's quest for perfection in their lives*. Sokol believes in this way each individual is responsible for the success of the whole of society rather than society being responsible for raising the individual.

Please describe an event in your life in which you strove to attain perfection in accomplishing a task and how this event, either directly or indirectly, contributed to the "greater good".

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Signature/Date