

2024 Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games Highland Dance Scholarship

Rules & Information

- For a dancer to be considered for the scholarship, the dancer must: (1) have a minimum of two years' active training in Highland Dance; (2) be registered to compete in the Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games Highland Dance Competition by May 4, 2024; (3) be instructed by a Highland Dance instructor who is certified by one of the three examining bodies recognized by ScotDance USA & the RSOBHD; (4) submit a fully completed application form and essay; (5) submit a teacher recommendation form; and (6) submit a personal reference letter not from a member of your immediate family. If you would like, you may also include a resume or a list of your interests and extra-curricular activities outside of highland dancing so the committee can get to know you.
- If you have won a scholarship from the Smoky Mountain Highland Games in the past three (3) years, you are not eligible to apply.
- All portions must be received by 11:59 p.m. on May 4, 2024.
- Complete, timely and eligible applications will be considered by a scholarship committee, which is intentionally comprised of individuals who are **not** involved with Highland Dancing. The Organizers of the Highland Dance competition are **not** involved with any decision-making relating to the winner of the scholarship and prior to submission to the committee, all dancer's names will be removed to anonymize the process. Decisions of the scholarship committee are final.
- The scholarship committee is not necessarily looking to award the scholarship to the "best" dancer, but are looking for dancers who love what they do, are involved in their community, are a well-rounded individual, are committed to Highland Dancing and work towards being the "best dancer they can be"—regardless of how they place at competitions.
- The scholarship is open to any dancer regardless of race, creed, or gender.
- Dancers of any age are eligible for this award.
- Teacher Input: Input from your current teacher is required. If you have been with your current teacher for less than one year, submit information from your current and prior instructor(s). The teacher's letter should address the length of time you have studied with the teacher, your skill level, progress made this year, proficiency. No application will be considered without the instructor recommendation, which must be received by 11:59 p.m. on May 4, 2024 to be eligible for consideration by the committee.
- Personal Reference: The committee wants to get to know you. Please include a letter from a friend, a teacher, or a dance friend who will tell us about you. You can pick from anyone, but they cannot be a member of your immediate family.
- The winner of the scholarships will be announced during the awards presentation.
- All scholarship forms, essays, teacher letter, etc. should be sent via email to smhgdancing@gmail.com

**2024 SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES
HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOLARSHIP DANCER APPLICATION**

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

Email Address (parent's email if under 18): _____

Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

How long have you been training in Highland Dance? _____

Name & address of your current Highland Dance Teacher: _____

How long have you studied with this instructor? _____

In what category do you compete? _____

How many hours outside of class do you practice each week? _____

How many classes do you take each week? _____

What is your immediate objective with Highland Dance this year? _____

What is your future goal with Highland Dance? _____

What correction have you made recently that makes you proud? _____

2024 ESSAY

In 550 words or less, please respond to one of the following prompts:

1. Why would you recommend Highland Dance to someone considering taking dance lessons?
2. What avenues have been opened to you as a result of your involvement in Highland Dance?

**2024 SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES
HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTOR RECCOMENDATIONS**

Teacher Recommendation Form Information

- All recommendations must be received by 11:59 p.m. on May 4, 2024.
- No application will be considered without a completed Teacher Recommendation Form.
- Please email completed recommendation forms to: smhgdancing@gmail.com
- If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Walker at 615-202-1058 or smhgdancing@gmail.com.
- The Organizers of the Dance Competition are **not** involved in the decision-making for the Scholarship Competition and all applications are reviewed with the dancer's names removed so the committee can anonymize the review.

**2024 SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES
HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOLARSHIP
INSTRUCTOR RECCOMENDATION FORM**

Recommendation form for: _____

Instructor's Name: _____

Instructor's Email: _____

Instructor's Phone: _____

Instructor's Address: _____

Name of Dance School: _____

What Governing Body are you a member of? _____

Membership Number for Governing Body: _____

Applicant's competition category: _____

How long has student studied with you? _____

Does this student consistently practice outside of class? _____

Does this student consistently do his/her best in class? _____

What progress has this student made in the past year? (i.e. progressed from Beginner to Novice, learned all National dances, etc.): _____

Please add any additional information that may assist the Committee, including comments on the dancer's commitment to Highland Dancing, how many hours spent in practice outside of class, regularity of attendance at class, love of Scottish culture, commitment to volunteering, demonstrated proficiency, spirit of sportsmanship, friendliness, etc. Please also discuss any obstacles that this dancer has had to overcome, such as physical, financial, schedule, health, etc.

You may include this information on the back of this sheet or submit additional paper.

**2024 SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES
HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOLARSHIP PERSONAL RECCOMENDATIONS**

Personal Recommendation Information

To help the Committee get to know an applicant, we are seeking a letter from someone who knows the applicant well, but are not a member of the applicant's immediate family. This reference can be a friend, a school teacher, a dance friend, a neighbor, etc. The reference should include how they know the applicant, how long they have known the applicant and discuss the applicant's personal attributes and character.

- All recommendations must be received by 11:59 p.m. on May 4, 2024.
- No application will be considered without a Personal Recommendation Letter.
- Please email completed letters to: smhgdancing@gmail.com
- If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Walker at 615-202-1058 or smhgdancing@gmail.com.