

William E. Simon Olympic Endowment for the Support of Athletes

General Information and Instructions

What is the William E. Simon Olympic Endowment for the Support of Athletes?

The William E. Simon Olympic Endowment for the Support of Athletes was established in 1998 by Mr. William E. Simon, Sr., former U.S. Olympic Committee President and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. Grants for training and competition are awarded to athletes showing financial need. By creating this fund, Mr. Simon recognized the importance and many personal benefits of participating in sports.

How is the endowment administered?

Applications are distributed and processed by the USOC's Sport Performance and Paralympic Divisions. General responsibility for management of the endowment, including all award decisions, resides with a Board of Trustees. Awards are made once a year.

What can the grant be used for?

Grants are intended for training and competition expenses.

Are the grants sufficient to pay all training and competition costs?

Because training and competition costs vary widely, these grants are intended to provide only **partial** support.

Can grants be received more than once?

While this is possible, multiple grants to a single individual would be rare. The Trustees would like to help as many athletes as possible.

Who is eligible?

General athlete eligibility requirements

- U.S. Citizenship and eligible to compete for the United States
- Currently in training and competition
- Demonstrated financial need in order to continue training

Preference will be given to athletes who receive minimal or no support from the USOC, U.S. Paralympics or sport national governing body.

What are the chances of receiving a grant?

The chances of receiving a grant depend on the number of applications; however, the Trustees have complete discretion in selecting grant recipients and award amounts.

If a grant is awarded, how much can an athlete expect to receive?

The endowment does not have a set grant amount. The endowment funds are invested, and a portion of the interest is used for awards. Amounts will vary depending on available funds in a given year, the number of qualified applicants, and the meritorious circumstances of a particular applicant. *There are years where the grant may not be awarded due to declines in the value of the endowment.*

How does an athlete apply?

Athletes must complete the attached application electronically and submit it via email to simon.grant@usoc.org with the following:

- A personal essay of up to three typed, double spaced pages
- Two letters of recommendation. Recommendations letters may accompany the grant or be sent separately as long as the reference's contact information is included on the letter.

Additionally, athletes may submit supporting documents such as newspaper articles, statistics and other pertinent information in an electronic format such as Adobe PDF or a picture file.

What should be included in the essay?

The essay should address why the athlete is a worthy grant recipient. In particular the athlete should explain:

- His or her background in the sport, including competition results
- Financial need/circumstances affecting the athlete's ability to train and compete
- How this grant, if awarded, would "make a difference"
- What it means to be able to practice/participate in the chosen sport

Who should write the letters of recommendation?

This is entirely up to the athlete but teachers, counselors, coaches, and employers are good choices since they can usually comment on overall character, achievement, and promise. The recommendation letters must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the writer; sent via email; and must arrive by the application deadline.

How much does it cost to apply and what is the deadline?

There is no charge to apply for this grant. **For Fall 2010, completed applications, including letters of recommendation, must be received by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time on Monday, October 4, 2010; no exceptions.** Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early as it is not always possible to verify receipt of complete applications in time for the deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure recommendation letters have been sent and are received by the deadline. Additionally, applicants should consider emailing their applications using the "return receipt" feature.

When will applicants be notified?

Award nominations are reviewed by the Trustees annually, usually at year-end. We anticipate that award decisions will be finalized and applicants notified by January 31.

Terms and Conditions of Grant

An award will be paid in two installments. If selected, the applicant will receive half of the award with a notification letter. In addition to an acknowledgement to the Trustees, the athlete will be asked to complete a progress form later in the grant year, describing achievements in training and competition before the second payment will be processed.

Where should completed applications be emailed?

Please email completed applications, including essay, letters of recommendation, and related application material to: simon.grant@usoc.org.

Please email any questions regarding Olympic Sports to tammie.forster@usoc.org; Jamie Martin (Jamie.martin@usoc.org) for Paralympic Sports; or directly to simon.grant@usoc.org.

Instruction for Completing the 2010 Electronic Application for:
“William E. Simon Olympic Endowment for the Support of Athletes”

The attached application is in the Adobe Acrobat format and requires the most recent version of Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat to work properly. Adobe Reader may be obtained for free at: <http://www.adobe.com/>. The application forms contain fields which you can type your responses directly into. At the top of the form, you will notice a bar indicating active fields. You can click on that bar to reveal the fields for typing in your responses. Please follow the steps highlighted here:

- 1) Ensure you have a current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader
- 2) Open the attached “William E. Simon Olympic Endowment for the Support of Athletes” application
- 3) Complete the application by filling in all the active fields
- 4) Save your application (as a PDF) using your last name and first initial in the name of the document
- 5) Email the application (and application materials) to simon.grant@usoc.org as attachments to your email

Personal essays and letters of recommendation can be submitted in Microsoft Word format, PDF format, or directly by email. You will also notice in the application form that we are requesting the required application material to be emailed as well. If possible, please email all your material together.

This electronic process helps ensure each application can be read accurately; verifies the dates as applications and application material arrives; and helps us save precious resources by virtually eliminating the need for paper throughout the process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to simon.grant@usoc.org or call Tammie Forster at 719-866-4838.

**William E. Simon Olympic Endowment for the Support of Athletes
Application Form**

Complete applications, including letters of recommendation, must be received by close of business (5:00 p.m. Mountain Time) on **October 4, 2010 - no exceptions.** Grants are awarded once a year.

Name: _____ **Gender (M/F):** _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone Number: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Marital Status (“S” for single, “M” for married): _____ **Sport (and event if applicable):** _____

Currently in: _____ **Birth date (mm/dd/yyyy):** _____

For income tax purposes, I am (“D” for Dependent or “I” for Independent):
You are a dependent if you are claimed by your parents on their income tax return.

All applicants must complete column I. Additionally, if you are a dependent, please have your parent(s) complete column II; or if married, your spouse. *(Please do not use a comma in your responses. The form automatically totals.)*

	Column I* <u>Athlete</u>	Column II* <u>Parent(s) or Spouse</u>
Gross annual income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Current cash, savings, checking	\$ _____	\$ _____
Real estate other than primary residence	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other investments or income (e.g., disability)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

***Please complete this information based on what your income tax forms will look like for this calendar year.**

Reminder: Athlete is required to submit an essay and two letters of recommendation as part of this application. Applications must be complete and on time to receive consideration.

Certification

By typing my (our) name (s) in the field(s) below, I certify that I am a U.S. citizen, eligible to compete for the U.S., and that the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my (our) knowledge. If asked by or on behalf of the William E. Simon Olympic Endowment, I (we) agree to provide documentation in support of information on this form.

_____ **Applicant** _____ **Parent (if athlete is a dependent)** _____ **Date**

Typing my (our) name(s) in the fields above, constitutes an electronic signature; therefore, does not require a hard-copy to be sent or faxed.

William E. Simon Olympic Endowment
Simon.grant@usoc.org