



SOCIETY OF KASTORIANS "OMONOIA", INC.
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I. CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Dear Kastorian Applicant,

We are pleased that you have decided to apply for a merit-based scholarship from the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA." As a Kastorian – American, you are part of a successful American legacy of Greek immigrant traditions and culture. This 62nd call for scholarship applications is the result of a proud history of philanthropy and fellowship by people inspired to give to a Society that has shaped their personal and spiritual well-being.

In preparing your application, carefully read the recently updated "Scholarship Rules and Regulations" and "Scholarship Application Checklist" to verify your eligibility and understand the requirements necessary for a complete application. Once you have established that you are eligible to receive a scholarship from the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA," you can begin the application process.

Request official school transcripts and enrollment verification letters from your school(s) as soon as possible, as these can take time to become available. Complete and sign the "Scholarship Application" and send the completed and signed application to the Society via regular mail, e-mail or fax (see letterhead above for contact information)

Write an essay on a topic that has been selected by the Scholarship Committee, and mail, e-mail, or fax this to the office along with your application. This year, the essay topic is:

"How does growing up in a household with Kastorian values help you develop the skills, vision, and perseverance to navigate the challenges of today?"

All documents required on the Checklist and membership dues must be received by Friday, **October 18, 2024. THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS!** Applicants interested in the status of their application must communicate via email only with the Kastorian Society, who will reply once a written request is received by the applicant. To assure that all necessary application materials have been submitted to the Kastorian Society of Omonia on time, communication must occur two weeks prior to the due date. **Late and incomplete application material will not be accepted and will void the application.**

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

SOCIETY OF KASTORIANS "OMONOIA", INC.

II. SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. Scholarship Eligibility and Application Requirements

All applicants and their parent(s) must be, or must have been, members in good standing of the Society and of Kastorian descent. Specifically:

One or both parents must be, or must have been, members for at least the last three consecutive years. Parents may only be remiss in dues payments for 1 year, which can be paid with the application.

If both parents are deceased, at least one grandparent must be, or must have been, a member for at least three consecutive years.

If parents and grandparents are deceased, at least one parent or one grandparent must have been a member for at least three consecutive years at the time of his/her death.

Applicants must be (or become) members in the year in which they are applying.

Applicants must not exceed their limit of scholarship awards from the Society (see section IV, "Lifetime Limits on the Number of Scholarship Awards").

Applicants must write an essay on a topic selected by the scholarship committee (refer to "Scholarship Application Instructions" for the essay title for this year).

Applicants must either be full time matriculated students in an accredited program or High School graduates accepted for full time matriculation in an accredited program of an accredited institution. Accredited institutions are Colleges or Universities with four (or more) years of undergraduate or graduate study that have been accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Community Colleges are not accepted. Institution accreditation can be confirmed through the online CHEA database of accredited institutions (www.chea.org/search/search.asp).

Undergraduate students must verify full time status (12 or more credits) with an official transcript of their current semester coursework and an official enrollment letter. Graduate students taking 9 or more credits must also verify full time status with an official transcript of their current semester coursework and an official enrollment letter. Full time graduate students or medical students who have either completed their coursework or are taking less than 9 credits while conducting research or clinical work, must verify their full-time status with an official letter from the school certifying their full time enrollment status. Refer to the "Scholarship Application Checklist" for detailed guidelines on official transcripts and official letters of enrollment status.

Only official supporting documents (transcripts and letters of enrollment status) bearing the official letterhead of the school, will be accepted. Unofficial documents, such as photocopies, FAX documents and web-based printouts, will render the application ineligible and void. Transcripts and letters of enrollment status can be mailed directly from the school or they can be mailed by the applicant in a sealed envelope. The application and essay can be sent via regular mail, e-mail or fax.

Applicants must be in good academic standing: an average grade of 80 or better in the senior year of high school is required for first year undergraduate applicants and a GPA of 3.00 or better is required for all others (see section II, "Scholarship Award Categories").

Applicants must submit a photograph (jpeg or pdf) to be included in the Scholarship Program. Included with the photograph, applicants should provide a 200-word bio that

includes a statement of intended use of funds. Within the bio, applicants should describe themselves, their current studies and future endeavors.

Service is considered part of the evaluation process (see section III, "Scholarship Application Evaluation Process"). Service to the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA" and/or the community should include involvement (not only attendance) to the Society's events. Examples of service include helping at various committees such as annual banquet, mentoring during youth programs such as dance and language programs, and maintenance of web site, as well as any "remote engagement" that promotes social networking, remote tutoring, or promotes Kastorian values such as philanthropy, civic engagement, etc. Service to the Society can include service to the Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria and all philanthropic and community organizations at large.

Service must be supported by a 100-word(max) statement of service, and a signed letter of reference with a detailed description of the community service you describe in your statement. Examples of service to the Society can be found in Appendix I.

All application material (application, essay, bio & statement of intent, photograph, statement of service, transcripts and service reference letter) and membership dues must be received by the deadline specified in the "Call for Scholarship Applications." This deadline will be strictly adhered to. **There will be no extensions.**

Applicants must sign the "Scholarship Application". Applicants who chose to submit their application via e-mail must type their name in the signature line of the application (in section II, "Certification", of the "Scholarship Application"), which will be considered equivalent to an electronic signature.

II. Scholarship Award Categories

There are four scholarship categories, each with its own range of award amounts (see section V, "Scholarship Award Amounts"). They are

1. First year undergraduate students: students currently enrolled in their senior year of High school
2. Undergraduate students
3. Graduate students or medical students in the first two years of graduate school.
4. Doctoral students, graduate students beyond the first two years of graduate school, or medical students in the last two years of medical school.

III. Scholarship Application Evaluation Process

To be considered for the award, a student must have the following three prerequisites, or the application will be disqualified:

1. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (or average of 80 or higher if first year undergraduate) up to the time of application (worth 50% of your score).
2. An average essay score of 80 or better based on grades from three independent examiners. Essays will be evaluated on the completeness of the 2-part essay topic and mechanics (worth 15% of your score).
3. Full time matriculation in an accredited university program (20% of score based on school ranking according to US News and World Report).

In addition, service to either the Society (preferred) or to the community at large will be calculated into your score; based on the service and the quality of the service the range will be a minimum of 0%(no service) to a maximum of 15% of your score. Your statement needs to clearly explain how your involvement and/or actions contributed to improving a situation. This statement must be validated by a letter of reference from someone serving in a supervisory or leadership role.

For first-year Undergraduate/Graduate/Doctoral students the overall GPA in their previous school/degree is used in the evaluation process. Thus, for first-year undergraduate students it is the average grade in the last year of High School, for first-year graduate students it is the GPA of their undergraduate degree and for first-year doctoral students it is the GPA of their graduate degree. For all others it is the cumulative GPA up to the time of application.

The three examiners who review and grade the essays are instructors in higher education (college and university professors). To ensure fairness, essays are evaluated anonymously (applicant's name does not appear on the essay).

IV. Lifetime Limits on the Number of Scholarship Awards

There is a lifetime limit of three total Scholarship awards: either two undergraduate awards and one graduate award or one undergraduate award and two graduate awards. Awards in categories 1 and 2 are undergraduate awards; awards in categories 3 and 4 are graduate awards. (see section II, "Scholarship Award Categories").

V. Scholarship Award Amounts

Each year the scholarship committee sets the amounts for each category with the consent and approval of the Society's Board of Directors.

VI. Scholarship Award Names

Scholarship award certificates bear the names of the benefactors who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund of the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA". The scholarship names are...

The ASSEMBLED FUR IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF NYC Scholarship

The NIKOLAOS BASDEKAS Scholarship

The BENEVOLENT SOCIETY LADIES OF KASTORIA Scholarship

The CONSTANTINO AND ALIKI CHRISTIE Scholarship

The PHILIP AND DORA CHRISTIE Scholarship

The ALEXANDRA KORDES DAVATZES Scholarship

The DEMETRIOS AND ELENI PELTEKIS Scholarship

The GEORGE HADZELLIS Scholarship

The MICHAEL AND MILLIE KOUMAS Scholarship

The KYROS MANTZOURAS Scholarship

The CLEONIKI METROPOULOS AND AUNT LENKO Scholarship

The LEONIDAS AND ANNE MIHALTSE Scholarship

The DIMITRIOS PAPAS Scholarship

The GUS PAPAS Scholarship

The SOCIETY OF KASTORIANS "OMONOIA", INC. Scholarship

The EVANGELOS AND EVANGELIA TSAMISIS Scholarship
The THOMAS, MARY AND VENETIA TSAMISIS Scholarship
The ARGYRIOS TSIKOS Scholarship
The NICHOLAS AND THEMIS VASSILIOU Scholarship
The ATHANASIOS YANOS Scholarship
The ZACHOS BROTHERS Scholarship

VII. Additional Requirements for Recipients

Scholarship recipients are required to be present during the scholarship awards ceremony unless they live or attend school outside the tri-state (NY, NJ and CT) area. If the applicant is unable to attend the scholarship ceremony, they must submit a Youtube video message, thanking the society for the scholarship, one month prior to the scholarship ceremony. The Society reserves the right to deny recipients awards if they fail to attend the event or fail to submit a video.

VIII. Amendments to Scholarship Rules and Regulations

These rules and regulations may be amended at any time by the Scholarship Committee of the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA" with the consent and approval of the Society's Board of Directors.

IX. Effective Date These rules and regulations take effect on May 1st, 2021 and supersede all older versions.

SOCIETY OF KASTORIANS "OMONOIA", Inc.

III. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's Membership dues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topical Essay | <input type="checkbox"/> Official letter of full-time matriculation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Official transcript(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent membership in good standing for the last three years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service to Society and/or Community | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Word service statement & Letter of reference for service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Photo (jpeg/pdf) intent | <input type="checkbox"/> 200 word Bio, including statement of intent if funds awarded. |

AWARD CATAGORIES

First year undergraduate students must send their High School transcript. They must also send an official transcript of their current semester coursework to verify full time matriculated status in an accredited program (12 or more credits), and an official letter confirming full time enrollment status in an accredited program (if registered for less than 12 credits).

Undergraduate students must send an official transcript of all their undergraduate coursework to date, including their current semester coursework in order to verify full time status (12 or more credits) and an official letter confirming full time enrollment status (if registered for less than 12 credits)

First year graduate students (or students in the first year of medical school) must send an official transcript of their undergraduate work. They must also send an official transcript of their current semester coursework (if registered for 9 or more credits) and an official letter confirming full time enrollment status.

Graduate students (or students in the first two years of medical school) must send an official transcript of their entire graduate (or medical school) coursework to date, including their current semester coursework, and an official letter confirming full time enrollment status (if registered for less than 9 credits). If registered for less than 9 credits they must also send an official letter confirming full time enrollment status.

First year doctoral students (or students in the third year of medical school) must send an official transcript of their graduate (or medical school) work. They must send an official transcript of their current semester coursework (if registered for 9 or more credits) and an official letter confirming full time enrollment status (if registered for less than 9 credits).

Doctoral students (or students in the last two years of medical school) must send an official transcript of all their doctoral (or medical school) work to date. They must also send an official transcript of their current semester coursework (if registered for 9 or more credits) and an official letter confirming full time enrollment status (if registered for less than 9 credits).

Important reminders:

Only official transcripts and official letters of enrollment status will be accepted. These documents are official only if they bear the official letterhead of the school. Photocopies, FAX documents and web-based printouts will not be accepted.

All documents (photo, application, essay, transcripts and/or letter of enrollment status, bios, letters of reference for service, statements of service) and membership dues must be received by the deadline specified in the "Call For Scholarship Applications Letter". This deadline will be strictly adhered to. There will be no extensions.

The application and essay can be sent via regular mail, e-mail or fax. Official transcripts and official letters of enrollment status can be mailed directly from the school or they can be mailed by the applicant in a sealed envelope. The Society is not responsible for lost documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the Kastorian Society of Omonia office via email (no telephone calls) to request confirmation of the receipt of all application materials. We strongly recommend that you submit your application well in advance to allow ample time for verification of all documents.

Please refer to Scholarship Rules and Regulations under I. Scholarship Eligibility and Application Requirements for information about describing your service to the Society and/or the community and note that the letter of reference for service should be sent directly to the Society. Applicants wishing to document their service to the Society or to the Philoptochos must request a letter of service from the respective President.



SOCIETY OF KASTORIANS "OMONOIA", INC.
IV. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION I: PERSONAL INFORMATION

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH/DAY/YEAR) _____ PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY/COUNTRY) _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL1 _____ EMAIL2 _____

I am a U.S. citizen I am a resident alien Guest / Other

PASSPORT NUMBER _____ CARD NUMBER _____ VISA TYPE AND NUMBER _____

Yes, I have received scholarship(s) from the Society of Kastorians.

Please indicate the year (s) and degree you have received the scholarship for.

Year _____ Year _____

Year _____ Year _____

No, I have not received any scholarship(s) from the Society of Kastorians

Yes, I am a member of the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA" since: _____

Ladies of Kastoria (Philoptochos) since: _____

Kastorian Youth Society since: _____

No, I am not a member

FATHER'S LAST NAME _____ FATHER'S FIRST NAME _____ FATHER'S MIDDLE NAME _____

My father is is not a member of the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA"

MOTHER'S LAST NAME _____ MOTHER'S FIRST NAME _____ MOTHER'S MIDDLE NAME _____

My mother is is not a member of the Ladies of Kastoria (Philoptochos)

SECTION II: CERTIFICATION

I certify that I understand the rules and regulations and that everything I have stated
here is true...

FULL NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST) _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Applicant # _____

SOCIETY OF KASTORIANS "OMONOIA" and BENEVOLENT SOCIETY LADIES of KASTORIA

SPONSORED EVENTS

Events	Attendance	Service involvement with Planning Committee
Halloween Party (Oct)		
St. Minas celebration (Nov)		
Annual Dinner Dance (Nov)		
Thanksgiving Food Drive (Nov)		
Christmas Party (Dec)		
Christmas Food Drive (Dec)		
New Year's Party (Jan)		
Ragoutsaria Dance (Jan)		
Valentine's Day Dance (Feb)		
Haskari (Feb-March)		
Fasolada (March-April)		
Cutting of Vasilopita (Jan-Feb)		
Greek Independence Day Parade (March or early April)		
Ronald McDonald Greek Division Walkathon (May)		
Annual Picnic (June)		
Prophet Elias celebration (July)		
Other:		

Service performed for either the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA" or the Benevolent Society Ladies of Kastoria.

**The following service suggestions are available for scholarship applicants not residing in the tri-state area of New York.*

Suggested Services:

- Updating our website
- Creating an online Kastorian Youth Forum
- Using social media to promote upcoming events, current activities, job networking, and growing communication among all Kastorians.

***Please inform the President of the Society of your presence at an event.**