

CHEER
AMERICA
SCHOLARSHIP



2016-2017 Heart of a Champion
Scholarship
Information Packet

I. Introduction:

Greetings and thank you for your interest in Cheer America's Heart of a Champion Scholarship! This not only means you are a high-achieving individual academically, but also an exceptional athlete. In order to gain a deeper understanding of The Heart of a Champion Scholarship, it is important we share its origins and philosophy. After reading the following information and submitting your application online, you will become one step closer to becoming a Heart of a Champion Scholarship recipient! Remember to trust in your heart, and GOOD LUCK!

Someone once said, "If you want to know where your heart is, look to where your mind goes when it wanders." For Cheer America, our heart lies within the incredible events we host every competitive season. Over the past 20 seasons, we've had the privilege of witnessing over one million athletes in action! We've realized that a true champion's motivation toward success begins at their life source- *the heart*. As a way to reward outstanding athletes for their academic, philanthropic, and athletic achievements, Cheer America is excited to continue the Heart of a Champion Scholarship fund! We wish to award three merit-based scholarships ranging from \$500-\$1,500 to exceptional high school seniors and present them at our incredible Cheer Bowl National Championships, 2017! Please take note of the following important information:

Application Deadline

Sunday, February 5th, 2017 at 8:00pm.

Finalist Selection Date

Monday, February 6th, 2017.

Finalist Phone Interviews

Tuesday, February 7th, 2017 from 7:00pm-9:00pm.

Winner Announcement Date

Sunday, February 19th, 2017 during world-bid award ceremony. Specific time TBD.

Scholarships

Heart of a Champion Award: \$1,500

Loyalty Award: \$500 Trust Award: \$500

Entry Submission Information

www.cachampionships.com/scholarship



II. Eligibility:

- Be a currently enrolled **high school senior** within a recognized school district.
- Show current involvement in competitive All-Star Cheerleading and/or Dance.
- Show participation in volunteered community service activities.
- Be in pursuit of higher education as an entering college freshman with a current academic GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Be a participant of 2017 Cheer Bowl Nationals on February 17th-February 19th.
- Scholarships can **ONLY** applied toward Fall 2017 semester of applicants future college.

III. Submission Requirements:

- Submit an online application at www.cachampionships.com/scholarship
- Provide a current official transcript from your high school.
- Submission of TWO recommendation letters.
- Submit a Heart of a Champion essay that does not exceed 500 words.
- Participate in a phone interview, if selected as a finalist.
- Submit two photos: a clear headshot AND a photo in uniform/dance attire.



IV. Submission Details:

- **High School Enrollment**

Only high school seniors who are currently enrolled in a recognized school district are eligible for a Heart of a Champion scholarship. In order to determine academic enrollment, please include a copy of your high school transcript.

- **Proof of Financial Need**

The Heart of a Champion Scholarship is intended to benefit outstanding individuals that are pursuing higher levels of education at a college or university. In addition to rewarding individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership and scholastic ability, Cheer America will consider family income and financial need to determine scholarship winners.

- **Recommendation Form**

Cheer America requires that applicants submit TWO recommendation letters/forms from adult professionals that know the applicant personally. One recommendation must be completed by an academic advisor (i.e. teacher, counselor, principal) and the other by an athletic instructor/coach. A recommendation form is attached below, however, applicants may submit a personalized letter.

- **Heart of a Champion Essay**

This portion of the application process is crucial to the selection of our scholarship winners. Applicants must not exceed 500 words in their essay. Please select ONE of the following essay topics below:

- 1) Describe a significant challenge, setback, or opportunity in your life where you used your heart to overcome adversity.
- 2) What is a true champion and how does the heart influence their successes?
- 3) Explain how receiving the Heart of a Champion Scholarship would help you achieve your future goals.

- **Finalist Phone Interview**

Finalists will be selected from our applicant pool to participate in a “Finalist Phone Interview.” If selected as a finalist, you will be contacted to schedule a phone interview that will take place on Tuesday, February 7th from 7:00-9:00pm, depending on your availability. Please keep your schedule open and flexible during these times. A series of questions will be asked and judged on the basis of: communication skills, personality, and



the ability to appropriately respond. Interviews will take approximately 10 minutes. The following are examples of interview questions:

- Tell us about the non-profit or charitable cause you work with and represent?*
- Why should you be selected as the Heart of a Champion Scholarship winner?*
- What are your future goals and aspirations?*
- What is most valuable lesson you've learned from competitive cheer/dance?*

▪ **Headshot**

Please submit two photos with your application: a headshot and uniform/dancewear photo. These do not have to be professional, however, we request they be clear and of high quality. Please do not submit photos with any other individuals, 'selfies,' or team photos.

▪ **Application Deadline**

The following items must be submitted online at www.cachampionships.com/scholarship by 8:00pm on Sunday, February 5th:

- Application form
- Copy of high school transcript
- TWO Forms/Letters of Recommendation
- "Heart of a Champion" essay
- Two Photos: Headshot/Uniform

Thank you for your interest in the Heart of A Championship Scholarship, and on behalf of Cheer America Championships, GOOD LUCK!

