ACSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
2027

The American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) scholarship is available to either graduating high school seniors or persons currently enrolled in college or trade school full time (*12 semester credits*), either physically or online. Scholarships will be given to the winners regardless of other grants or scholarships that the students may also receive.

Requirements are as follows:

1. The applicant or immediate family must be a paid member of a state snowmobile association, and the state association must be a member of ACSA.
2. The applicant must submit the completed application form.
3. The applicant must submit a cover letter. This letter must include the student ID number and college/trade school name and the address to which a scholarship check would be sent to.
4. The applicant must submit a resume detailing his/her involvement in snowmobiling as well as extra-curricular activities.
5. The applicant must submit an essay (*essay subject located on the Application Form*). The essay **MUST** follow the format below to be accepted and should be sent in **Word or Google Docs**:
    a. **Minimum** of 2 pages - typed.
    b. Double-spaced.
    c. Font - Times New Roman.
    d. Font size - 12 point.
    e. Margins - set to 1 inch for all margins (top, bottom, left side, right side).
    f. Page numbers (if included) should be .5 inch from the top of the page (not within the 1" margin).
    g. A header (*for example, the essay question*) can be added 1 inch from the top of the first page, and then enter a double space and begin your essay.
    h. Do NOT use bold-faced type or other special settings.
    i. If work is cited, please add an additional 'work-cited' page at the end of the essay. This information will NOT be counted as part of the 2-page minimum.
    j. The essay must follow the essay topic or be disqualified.
6. The applicable documents must be received via email at the ACSA Office by February 1, 2027. Please email to info@snowmobilers.org using a subject line of ACSA Scholarship Application.
7. **Any entry that does not meet ALL of these requirements will be disqualified. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Additional rules:

1. Students must use the scholarship within one year of receiving it.
2. All scholarship checks will be written directly to the college and not to the student. No Exceptions.

All applicants will be notified of the final scholarship selection by April 15, 2027. The scholarship winner will be publicly announced at the International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) in June. While ACSA understands it may be difficult for the winner to attend the ISC, at the very least, ACSA may attempt to make an electronic presentation to the winner and record it for playback at the ISC.

ACSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

2027

Applicant Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Postal Code: _____

State Association: _____

Member of which local Club(s)? _____

_____

Graduated from what high school or GED equivalent? _____

Attending which college, technical or vocational institute? _____

_____

If already enrolled in a program, what year are you in? _____

High School or Equivalent GPA: _____

If applicable, College, Technical or Vocational GPA: _____

☐ Have you attached a cover letter introducing yourself and provided your student ID number and your college/trade school name and address to which a scholarship check would be sent to?

☐ Have you attached a resume detailing your involvement in snowmobiling as well as extra-curricular school activities?

☐ Have you attached an essay on the following subject (must be at least 2 pages, double-spaced and typed)?

(continued)

ACSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
2027

Essay Topic: Snowmobiling: A Privilege, Not a Right

Snowmobiling is often viewed as a thrilling winter pastime—an opportunity to explore snow-covered landscapes, connect with nature, and experience a sense of freedom that few other activities can provide. However, this freedom should not be mistaken for an inherent right. Snowmobiling is, and should remain, a privilege—one that comes with responsibilities, respect for others, and careful stewardship of the environment.

Essay Challenge:

1. **The Landowner/Land Manager-Rider Partnership:** "Most snowmobile trails and open riding areas on public lands exist due to the generosity of private landowners and cooperation with public land managers. Argue why respecting property boundaries (staying on marked trails/approved open riding areas) is the single most important responsibility of a snowmobiler and discuss the long-term consequences of failing to do so."
2. **Defining Privilege vs. Right:** "Using examples of how snowmobiling access can be revoked due to noise complaints, trespassing, or unsafe riding, explain the legal and social distinction between a 'right' and a 'privilege' in the context of winter recreation."
3. **The Impact of One:** "A single reckless rider can cause a landowner to close a trail or an open riding area that serves an entire community. Analyze how this reality necessitates a culture of peer-to-peer accountability among snowmobilers."
4. **Environmental Responsibility:** "Because off-trail riding can cause significant agricultural damage to winter crops and soil erosion, argue for or against stricter penalties for riders who travel off designated, groomed trails."
5. **Ethics of Wildlife:** "Snowmobiling offers unique access to nature, but irresponsible riding can stress or harm wintering wildlife. How can riders balance the enjoyment of the sport with the ethical obligation to protect the environment and its inhabitants?"
6. **The Future of the Sport:** "How can the snowmobiling community better educate new and young riders to understand that the trail system is a privilege earned through hard work, rather than an automatic entitlement?"

Note:
Essays will be judged on depth of content, clarity, organization, and persuasiveness.