



Scholarship Criteria & Application

Overview of *SasonsFund* Scholarships for 2016

The Sharify family created the Sason Sharify Scholarship Fund (*SasonsFund*) in July 2001, after the tragic and accidental death of Sason Sharify, a respected high school math teacher, athlete, and coach. *SasonsFund*, established as a non-profit tax-exempt fund that is managed by the Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County (www.cfsgwc.org), consists of generous donations by individuals and corporations. *SasonsFund* distributes scholarships on an annual basis in April/May of each year. For the 2015-2016 school year, two (2) scholarships, each worth \$1,500, will be awarded: one to a senior from Greeley West High School and one to a senior from Greeley Central High. Awards will be made on the basis of academic merit, financial need, character, teamwork, and potential that is respected by high school teachers. All scholarship candidates must apply for the scholarship by answering all the questions on the application form. Each scholarship recipient is selected by a group of local teachers and coaches and must have plans to attend a 4-year university in the year following their high school graduation.

Points of Contact (POCs) for *SasonsFund* Scholarships:

For questions regarding the scholarship form, award and distribution:

The Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County (CFSGWC):

Lauren Weber
2425 35th Avenue, Ste. 201
Greeley, CO 80634
970-304-9970
lauren@cfsgwc.org

For questions regarding Sason or the 15-year history of *SasonsFund*:

Family Members:

Nancy & Dean Sharify
sasonsfund@aol.com

Participating High Schools:

Greeley West (Greeley, CO)

POC: Marlene Rich, Scholarship Coordinator, mrich@greeleyschools.org

Greeley Central (Greeley, CO)

POC: Steve Vail, Scholarship chairperson, svail@greeleyschools.org

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/sasonsfund.scholarships> for more information about *SasonsFund* and the scholarship.

Basic Criteria for Awarding a *SasonsFund* Scholarship:

- 1 Applicants should have a minimum of a 'B' GPA (3.0) or higher.
- 2 Applicants must be high school seniors, with definitive plans to attend a 4-year university (in-state or out-of state). All scholarship money will be available at the university to help fund the student's future academic activities.
- 3 Applicants must apply for the scholarship using the application form provided. The application form may be completed in the student's own handwriting or it may be typed. The application will require the student to enter some formal information (name, date of birth, GPA, etc.) and provide answers to the following questions:
 - A. In your opinion, how does advanced education help the world and your community? [200 words or less]
 - B. What does teamwork and team building mean to you? [200 words or less]
 - C. Please describe, in 50 words or less, your motto for life, or the dream(s) you want to achieve.
- 4 Applicants should be active academically and athletically at their high school. They need not be the most gifted students, but they should enjoy relative success in the classroom, demonstrate leadership and teamwork qualities, and participate in one or more varsity-level sport¹.
- 5 Applicants should be competitors on and off the field, with the characteristics and charisma of a team player. The applicant should have obvious potential and the respect of others, as noticed by the teachers (not just coaches) of the high school.
- 6 A group of teachers from each high school, selected by the counselors and composed of coaches and instructors of various disciplines (Math, History/Social Studies, English, Science, etc), will make the final selection. Two alternates from each high school will also be named in case the primary scholarship recipient cannot accept the scholarship. The Sharify family would like to personally review the top 5 applicants from each high school, but will not interfere (unless requested) with the final selection process.

2015-2016 Schedule² for Awarding *SasonsFund* Scholarships:

- Dec/Jan: The Sharify family and the TCFSGWC will complete and publish the *SasonsFund* application forms. Copies of the application form and criteria will be emailed or mailed (if requested) to the TCFSGWC contact person and to representatives of each high school.
- Jan: Comments and questions about the application form (if any) from the high schools are forwarded to Lauren Weber at the Community Foundation (lauren@cfsgwc.org).
- Jan/Feb: Each high school will promote and distribute the scholarship application to all interested applicants.
- Mar: [Pre-Spring Break] Students return completed (typed or hand-written) *SasonsFund* scholarship applications to the high school scholarship POC, who collects them and verifies them. The teacher/coach selection committee is determined at this time and all applications are copied and discretely forwarded to members of this group.
- Apr: The teacher/coach selection committee from each high school determines the scholarship winner and provides this information to Lauren Weber at the Community Foundation.
- Early May: The scholarship winner is announced and formally given the award at an awards ceremony (if possible). Members of the Sharify family would like to attend this event and/or meet the winner.
- Aug: The scholarship money is forwarded by TCFSGWC to the university where the scholarship winner will attend. The scholarship funds are placed directly in their student account.

¹ It is not necessary that the student be a Track athlete to apply for the scholarship. Nevertheless, Track was Sason's favorite athletic discipline. Sason gave much of his energy to this sport, first as an All-American sprinter in college, and second as a Track coach for several Colorado high schools. His Track student/athletes and their performance on-and-off the field were his muse, his commitment, and his driving force. He coached many successful student/athletes during his tenure, and was a dedicated friend to many more.

² All dates are approximate. Each participating high school may follow a schedule that conforms to their needs.



Scholarship Application

Sason Sharify: A Portrait

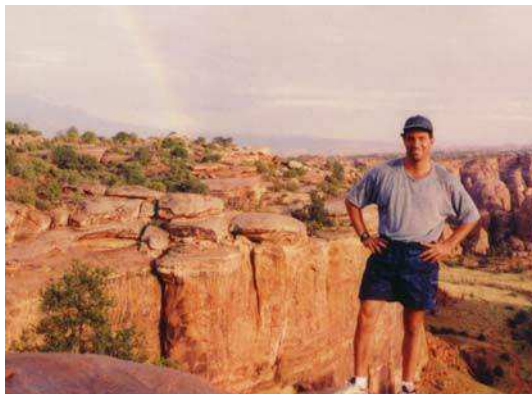
Sason Sharify was an immensely, intrinsically, irresistibly likeable person. He was a son and a brother who combined physical charisma with congeniality, friendly charm, and a passion for pushing life to its limits - for testing boundaries, overcoming resistance, doing what others thought couldn't be done. As a competitor, though, he competed first and foremost with his own limitations, always striving to be better, to excel.

Sason was never, ever a prisoner of fear. In another age, perhaps he would have been a knight, which is what the name "Sason" actually means in Persian. As a matter of fact, he had great enthusiasm for the imagery and symbolism of the knight facing down and slaying the dragon, triumphing over inner compulsions and outer obstacles.

Sason had a winning personality, but he was not a self-promoter. His personal qualities promoted themselves. He thrived amidst adversity and often tasted success - in athletics, in his relations with people, and in fields of education and training. His victories were much less the result of calculation than of triumphant will and a focused fire of passion for sport, for life. He lived his life to its fullest.

*Sason had a way of making people feel liked, accepted, and affirmed. He had a magnetism that required little excess speech on his part; his easy manner put others at ease. He was the kind of person who could pat you on the back and make you feel an inch or two taller...the kind of person that hundreds of people have felt privileged to regard as a **friend**.*

*-Nathan Funk, PhD
July 2001*



SasonsFund Scholarship Application

We are pleased to have you apply for the *SasonsFund* Scholarship. Established in 2001 by the Sharify family, these scholarships cover \$1,500 of tuition and fees for the first year of college at any accredited 4-year university. Awards will be made on the basis of scholarship, financial need, character, teamwork, and potential that is respected by high school teachers. All money granted with the scholarship will be directed to the university that you will attend in the fall. Half of the total scholarship award (\$750) will be placed in your student account for the Fall semester and other half for the Spring Semester.

Please enter the requested information in the space provided. This form may be typed or handwritten (legibly). Please submit this form to your high school counselor by 3:30pm, March 1, 2016 (or a date determined by the participating high school). You must sign this application before it can be considered. Late applications may not be considered. Additionally, please attach a copy of your high school transcript, including class rank, and ACT/SAT scores.

Applicant's Name and Address: _____

High School: _____ Overall GPA: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Favorite Academic Subject(s) and GPA: _____

Sport(s) "Lettered" In: _____

Other Sports Interests: _____

University planning to attend (please attach a copy of acceptance letter): _____

Favorite accomplishment or most rewarding activity while in high school: _____

What was your least favorite activity in high school? _____

How do you think it could be useful to you? _____

Name a friend or a fellow student that you have helped recently: _____

How did you help this person? _____

In your opinion, what would you like to see improved about your high school education? _____

What are your career aspirations? _____

How would you finance your first year in college without this scholarship? (Please be as specific as possible) _____

Continue to next page....

***SasonsFund* Scholarship Application (continued)**

Please answer the following questions in any way that you feel best represents your outlook and perspective (use back of application if necessary).

In your opinion, how does advanced education help the world and your community? [Response should be 200 words or less]

What does teamwork and team building mean to you? [Response should be 200 words or less]

Please describe, in 50 words or less, your motto for life, or the dream(s) you want to achieve.

Signed _____ Date _____