



# New York State Young Birders Club

## SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Effective 9/1/15

The **NYSYBC Scholarship Program** was established in 2010 to help NYSYBC's active Youth Members participate in educational bird conservation and birding-related programs and events.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Scholarship applicants must be  
(a) NYSYBC Youth Members in good standing throughout the entire program/event; AND  
(b) Youth or Supporting Adult Members in good standing at the time of application.

**PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT:** During the 12 months preceding the application deadline, applicants must have  
(a) attended at least two NYSYBC events or trips; OR  
(b) raised at least \$200 for the club.

**ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE:** All applications will be processed after August 31 and will be accepted for programs completed since September 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous calendar year and/or programs the applicant plans to complete before the end of the current calendar year. Applications may include more than one program.

Applications must be received no later than August 31.

Copies of receipts for completed programs and expenses **MUST** be submitted with your application. Please black out any visible credit card or bank account numbers before scanning.

**SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS:** The number and monetary value of scholarships awarded each year varies depending upon the number of applications received and funds available. NYSYBC scholarships are NOT competitive. The base scholarship cap is equal among all recipients each year. In no event will a scholarship exceed the eligible expenses for which receipts are provided.

**BONUS DOLLARS FOR FUNDRAISERS:** Those applicants who have contributed to the scholarship fund through fundraising activities are eligible to receive a scholarship amount higher than the cap, as long as the resulting total does not exceed the eligible expenses incurred. A bonus of up to 10% of the amount of money raised by the applicant may be added to the base scholarship amount. Bonus dollars not paid in any year will be available to increase the applicant's scholarship award(s) in subsequent years.

**ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS & EXPENSES:** Non-credit classes, courses, workshops, camps, conventions, birding trips, or other educational activities related to bird conservation and birding.

**Independent, unstructured trips are not eligible.** Certain expenses on NYSYBC and NYSOA trips far from your home are eligible (details below).

### EXAMPLES of eligible programs and expenses:

- **Non-credit** Classes/Courses/Workshops:
  - Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Home Study Course in Bird Biology.
  - Cape May School of Birding workshops.
  - Courses offered by bird photographers, birding experts, etc.
  - COLLEGE COURSES ARE **NOT** ELIGIBLE unless proof is provided that they are non-credit.
- Camps & Conferences:
  - Hog Island (Audubon).
  - National Youth Science Camp.
  - New Jersey Audubon Youth Birding Festival.
  - Youth birding camps (ABA's Camp Colorado & Camp Avocet; VENT's Camp Chiricahua).
  - ABA's Young Birders Conference.
  - NYSOA Annual Meeting / NYS Birders Conference.
- Organized Birding Trips:
  - Pelagic Birding.
  - World Series of Birding (NYSYBC team).
  - NYSYBC & NYSOA field trips more than 80 miles from your home (see limitations below).

### ELIGIBLE TRAVEL EXPENSES for trips more than 80 miles from your home, if not covered by the regular program fee:

- Applicant's lodging (up to \$100 per night per family).
- Applicant's dinner (up to \$20 per overnight).
- Twenty cents per mile in excess of 160 miles round trip per family plus bridge tolls, and/or up to \$120 for applicant's round trip public ground transportation.
- Airfare, if it is the lowest cost or only feasible option.

**NOT ELIGIBLE:** Taxis, non-bridge tolls, parking, car fuel, insurance, car rental fees, or any other expenses not listed above.

**PAYMENT:** Whenever possible, scholarships will be paid in advance directly to the organization that bills for the program. If all or part of the scholarship is to help fund a program already completed & paid, and/or to help cover travel expenses, that part of the scholarship will be paid directly to the recipient specified on the application following completion of the program, provided we receive copies of all applicable receipts.



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## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Fill out one sheet for each program/event already attended or planned for later this calendar year. Email forms with scanned receipts to [scholarships@nysyoungbirders.org](mailto:scholarships@nysyoungbirders.org) no later than August 31.

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of programs included in this application (one sheet per program, please) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of program \_\_\_\_\_

Location (street address) of program \_\_\_\_\_

Name of organization running it \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of program/event \_\_\_\_\_ Program Fees (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Expenses, if eligible/applicable (**Receipts are REQUIRED**):

Lodging for \_\_\_ nights: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner(s) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Public Transportation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Miles driven from home **specifically** for this program (one way) \_\_\_\_\_

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check should be made out to \_\_\_\_\_

Address where check should be sent \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant: Write a short paragraph** below (or on a separate sheet), following these instructions:

- If you have **already completed** the program, describe one or more particular experiences there that cause you recommend this program to other young birders. For example, the best experience you had there, the best bird(s), what makes the program special, etc.
- If this application is for a **future** program, explain why you wish to participate in it.