

## **Paul Bithorn Scholarship**

The MS/VG Optimist Club recognizes that education is key to enriching the life path of our youth, and long time club board member, Paul Bithorn, understood that connection. Because of his strong conviction for community service and working tirelessly for the youth of the Miami Springs/Virginia Gardens area we are proud to name our scholarship in his honor. The Paul Bithorn Scholarship fund provides financial assistance for students residing in Miami Springs or the Town of Virginia Gardens to attend a university, accredited college or other institution of higher learning (as a full-time student). Other applicants, not residing in Miami Springs or Virginia Gardens may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Application Deadline:**

Scholarship applications are due by end of day, April 15th of the application year.

### **Award Amount:**

Two (2) scholarships are awarded annually to two (2) students, for the following academic school year. Each scholarship is awarded for \$1,000.00. If determined by the board (based on need or merit) the applicant may receive an amount greater than the minimum.

### **Selection Criteria:**

Awards are based on financial need, aptitude promise, demonstrated academic and/or athletic achievements. Scholarship selection is made by five (5) MS/VG Optimist Club board members.

### **Obtaining Application:**

To obtain an application, please email [msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com), or write to:

Paul Bithorn Scholarship Application Request c/o MS/VG Optimist Club  
P.O. Box 660071  
Miami Springs, FL 33266

## **Application Materials:**

New applicants must submit the following application materials.

1. A completed scholarship application form.
2. An official copy of a school transcript/grade report from the school currently attending or most recently attended. The official transcript should list all grade points earned and academic course work completed to date.
3. An essay prepared by the applicant. including responses to questions listed in the official scholarship application.
4. Three letters of recommendation from a teacher, school administrator, athletic coach, counselor, mentor, clergy, or supervisor. Refer to the recommendation requirements document for minimum criteria to include. Recommendation letters may not be from immediate family members, close friends, blood relatives, or relationships by marriage.
5. Forward all application materials by the below deadline to:
  - a. [msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com) - or -
  - b. Paul Bithorn Scholarship Fund  
c/o MS/VG Optimist Club  
P.O. Box 660071  
Miami Springs, FL 33266

## **Notification and Disbursement of Award:**

Award notifications will occur by May 1st of the application year. Award will be paid for the semester the recipient demonstrates they are enrolled in classes as a full time student.

**PAUL BITHORN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
(Application must be completed in its entirety)

APPLICATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY) Gender assigned: M  or F

Birth Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: USA (  ) or other \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION INFORMATION**

**High School:**

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**College / University:**

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PAUL BITHORN SCHOLARSHIP**

### *Essay Requirements*

#### **ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:**

Submit an essay describing yourself and why you are applying for the scholarship. Limit the essay to no more than two (2) pages, and include the following information:

1. Tell us about yourself and why college is important to you.
2. What are your academic (or professional) goals?
3. Tell us about a time you failed and what you learned from the experience?
4. Tell us about a time where you stepped up as a leader.
5. Tell us about a contribution you've made to your community.
6. Who has been your biggest influence (or inspiration)?
7. How are you planning on financing your college education?
8. Why do you deserve this scholarship and how will it make a difference for you?

Forward the essay and all completed documentation (see *Application Materials* section for complete list of documents) by the below deadline:

- 1) Via Email

[msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com)

**OR**

- 2) Via US Mail

Paul Bithorn Scholarship Fund  
c/o MS/VG Optimist Club  
P.O. Box 660071  
Miami Springs, FL 33266

#### **DEADLINE:**

1. Scholarship applications are **due April 15<sup>th</sup>** of the application year.
2. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

**PAUL BITHORN SCHOLARSHIP**  
***Recommendation letter requirements***

Application Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include the below information with your recommendation letter and submit to the address listed below, **by April 15<sup>th</sup> of the application year.**

**Recommender information:**

1. Contact information (including company name, phone and email contact).
2. Relationship to the applicant.
3. How long have you known the applicant?
4. How well do you know the applicant?

**Required information regarding the applicant:**

1. How does the applicant challenge themselves, manage time and utilize support networks (academic or athletic networks)? Please provide detail.
2. How does the applicant lead or motivate others? Please provide detail.
3. How is the applicant at setting realistic goals and developing strategies for completing those goals? Please provide detail.
4. How is the applicant at understanding their personal strengths and weaknesses? Please provide detail.
5. Rate the applicant's community involvement and extra-curricular activities.
6. What is your overall impression of this applicant, and why do you feel the applicant should receive an award from the Paul Bithorn Scholarship fund? Please provide detail.

**Send your recommendation letter, by the deadline (April 15th), to:**

1) Via Email            [msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com)

**OR**

2) Via US Mail        Paul Bithorn Scholarship Fund  
                              c/o MS/VG Optimist Club  
                              P.O. Box 660071  
                              Miami Springs, FL 33266

**Questions?**

For questions regarding the application or recommendation letter process, please send an email to [msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:msvgoptimistclub@gmail.com) or write to the above mailing address.