

Champions of Character College Scholarships: Selection Criteria

Scholarship awards serve two equally valuable purposes: recognition of merit and achievement, as well as provision of financial support. The college scholarships of \$2000 per year for four years (up to \$8,000 in total) are the maximum given.

The allocation of the scholarship funds are for incoming college students, so applicants are high school seniors who have been accepted to a college/university.

In recognition of the criteria specified in its mission statement, the D&I USTA NorCal Committee seeks to award its scholarship funds to insure that all of the following are recognized in the aggregate pool of scholarship recipients:

As a general rule, applying students will be evaluated on these attributes and its relationship/tie to tennis:

- Academic Merit

We consider a grade point average of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, course selection, credit load, and undergraduate research experience. Students should also be actively involved in extracurricular activities.

- Written Narrative

Students must demonstrate originality in making their case as to how and why they embody the scholarship's namesake (Pancho Gonzalez, Althea Gibson, Michael Chang, and Arthur Ashe). Please use example of how your involvement in tennis has strengthen these attributes.

- Financial Need

The committee considers how students are financing their education. Students applying for scholarships based on financial need should clearly state in their application how many hours per week they work. For most scholarships with a need component, a FAFSA must be on file with the Office of Student Financial Aid.

- Diversity of Background

The scholarships were designed to service multicultural tennis players of Northern California. All, but one category (Arthur Ashe) must be awarded according to representation. The committee does not take into consideration other sources of identity such as religion and sexual orientation as they have no bearing on the outcome.

- Unusual Force of Character- X Factor

Students who have overcome obstacles related to health, family, social, educational or economic disadvantages and how tennis fits in are encouraged to apply. Any circumstance that shows strength of character and potential for achievement should be stated in your application.

- Community Service

The committee considers not simply your community service but, more importantly, the impact your service has had on a particular individual or group. The committee considers volunteerism, service learning, fieldwork or internships that show civic responsibility and engagement.

- Leadership

Students who demonstrate experience leading groups and providing direction to others including teaching, training, organizing, managing and carrying more responsibility on the part of a group or organization. Being held in high regard by one's peers for being a role model through actions and deeds; and making improvements and achieving successes with or on behalf of others in particular in a tennis environment.