ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIPS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

DEADLINE: 4:00 pm, February 9, 2015

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships of $10,000 to students from select institutions, including the U of M Twin Cities, who show exceptional promise for research-oriented careers in the natural or applied sciences, engineering, or mathematics. The U will put forward two candidates for the 2015-16 Astronaut Scholarships, with the expectation that one may be selected as a Scholar.

Candidates must: 1) be nominated by one faculty member and recommended by a second faculty member; 2) hold U.S. citizenship; 3) be current sophomores (class of 2017) or juniors (class of 2016) and plan to enroll full time in 2015-16; 4) have substantial research experience; and 5) exhibit motivation, imagination, and exceptional academic performance. Nominees are expected to be focused in their scientific objectives and possessed of intellectual daring. Awards are made primarily on the basis of merit; however, financial need may be considered.

Complete nominations must be submitted to the campus Astronaut Scholarship Committee for review. From this pool, the Committee will select the applications to forward to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. Nominations must be received no later than 4:00 pm, Monday February 9, 2015 at the following address:

U of M Astronaut Scholarship Committee
c/o University Honors Program
Northrop, Suite 390
84 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

The complete nomination must include all items listed below:

--Astronaut Scholarship Nomination Form
--Nominee’s Financial Summary Form
--Faculty Nominator’s Narrative Letter Supporting Nomination (*see below), in sealed envelope
--Recommendation letter from a second faculty member, in sealed envelope
--Nominee’s Short Statement of Personal Interests, Activities, Hobbies & Goals (not more than one page of 12-point type) Be sure to include a discussion of research interests and experience.
--Nominee’s Resume (1-2 pages)
--Nominee’s Proof of Citizenship (copy of birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers)
--Official transcripts from all colleges at which the nominee has earned academic credit, including transfer and PSEO. The U of M transcript must include final grades for fall 2014.

*The nominator should be a faculty member who knows the nominee personally and well. The narrative letter supporting the nomination form should give examples of the involvement and commitment of the student to science beyond the formal classroom. Creativity, drive, and intellectual daring are important attributes to document in the letter. The nominating faculty member should also complete the scholarship nomination form with the assistance of the nominee. Both faculty letters must be from professors at the U of M-Twin Cities.

Applicants should note that the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation requires the University to submit a list of all students who applied along with the forwarded application (name, major, degree expected year of graduation).

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.

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