

## Frank Bucino, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by



SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION  
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

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Spina Bifida Association of Northeastern New York (SBANENY) has established the Frank Bucino, Jr. Memorial Scholarship in cooperation with Frank's family. The purpose of the scholarship is to award financial assistance to support;

1. **Conference Scholarship:** Individuals who have Spina Bifida and their immediate family's attendance at a national or regional Spina Bifida conference. The goal of the Conference Scholarship is to encourage individuals and families to attend the SBA Conference or Education Day, or an SBANENY sponsored conference. These events provide a great opportunity to meet others living with Spina Bifida; learn more about living with Spina Bifida, make friends and enjoy seeing old friends; share tips and tricks; learn the latest medical information from doctors and other experts; and have an amazing experience overall!

OR

2. **Educational Scholarship:** Individuals with Spina Bifida who are pursuing education or technical training.

The amount of a scholarship is a maximum of \$1000 per year. It is intended to be used toward costs related to conference attendance (registration fees, transportation, lodging), or education (tuition, fees, and books.) The exact amount to be disbursed will be at the discretion of the SBANENY Scholarship Committee. The number of scholarship applicants will be a factor in this decision.

### Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicants (qualifying individual) must have Spina Bifida or a spinal cord disability resulting in similar challenges / needs AND must reside in New York State. For Conference Scholarship applications, immediate family may also benefit from the award for the purpose of assisting them to attend the conference with their family member (qualifying individual.)
2. There is no age limit.
3. Applicants must demonstrate a desire and plan to attend an upcoming national or regional conference/educational day on Spina Bifida OR demonstrate acceptance by a school of higher education, technical training, certificate program, or driver education training.

4. No financial statement shall be required.

5. SBANENY does not exclude anyone from applying for scholarships unless the applicant does not have Spina Bifida.

**Selection Process:**

1. Applicants must apply for this award.

2. Applications will be accepted at any time during the year. There is an expectation for award recipients to be decided upon within six weeks thereafter.

3. An application will consist of:

a. A completed application form.

b. A short essay (from three to five paragraphs) in the applicant's own words describing the reasons why he/she either;

Conference Scholarship: Wants to attend a Spina Bifida conference or education day, goals for attending, and how the conference will help to empower them and improve their quality of life. Conference to be attended must be specified.

OR

Educational Scholarship: Chose the particular course of study and what the applicant hopes to achieve. Both short term and long term goals should be included.

If reapplying, the essay should be updated to be current.

c. Two letters of recommendation:

Conference Scholarship: One from a health care provider, service provider, counselor, supervisor, co-worker, or teacher; and one from a non-relative.

Educational Scholarship Application: One from a teacher, school staff member, employer, or counselor; and one from a non-relative.

All letters must be current (within one month of the application date). If reapplying, the letters of recommendation must be new and from current teachers, professors, etc.

d. A doctor's note, on letterhead, confirming a diagnosis of Spina Bifida or spinal cord disability resulting in similar challenges / needs.

- e. An interview with one or more members of the Scholarship Committee. If geographical distance is an issue, a phone interview may be substituted for an in-person interview.
4. Selection of the recipient(s) shall be made by a majority vote of the Scholarship Committee. Recipient(s) will be notified within 3 months from when they apply.
5. Additional information may be requested depending upon the nature of the applications received.

**Selection Criteria:**

**Conference Scholarship:**

1. Awards will be dependent upon the pool of applicants.
2. Although not requirements, priority will be given to those who have not previously attended a conference, and those who might not otherwise be able to attend a conference.

**Educational Scholarship:**

1. Good citizenship, including extracurricular activities, community service, and attendance at school or work.
2. Scholastic achievement that indicates the potential for success in the program that the applicant is pursuing.

**Award**

Ability of the association to award scholarships for subsequent years to the same applicant will be dependent upon the number of applications received each year and will be at the discretion of the committee. All applicants must reapply.

**Conference Scholarship:**

1. Payment shall be made directly to the conference host for registration fees.
2. Recipient should provide proof of eligible expenses for either:
  - a. Reimbursement: Provide receipts showing payment already made for eligible expenses. Once these are reviewed and approved, SBANENY will provide a reimbursement check made payable to the recipient; OR
  - b. Direct Pay: The recipient provides a bill for an eligible expense (lodging or transportation) for the conference. After being reviewed and approved, SBANENY will write a check directly to the third party for the expense.
3. In order to apply for funding toward a subsequent year, applicants must show evidence of attending the conference for which they previously received a scholarship.

- a. Evidence of Conference Attendance: Immediately following attendance at the conference, providing information for an SBANENY newsletter article about the conference experience through a written summary, copies of materials that might be shared with other individuals and families, or interviewing with an SBANENY representative for a newsletter article would be preferred.

### **Educational Scholarship:**

1. In order to apply for funding toward a subsequent year, course grades must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee. The student must maintain passing grades in order to receive the scholarship for the next year. The student must submit a recommendation from a staff member of the school that they are currently attending.
2. Actual payment shall be made by check payable to the recipient(s) upon receipt of proof of registration at a college, trade school, or other specialized training.

### **Scholarship Committee**

The committee shall comprise:

1. The SBANENY Board Chairman or a designee.
2. Two additional members of the association.
3. One member shall be designated as chairperson.
4. Relatives of an applicant shall not be appointed to serve on the committee.