



OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

The National Leadership Honor Society

Gift of Membership Grants FY 2021-22

Introduction

Omicron Delta Kappa (OΔK) firmly believes no qualified candidate for membership that has been reviewed and accepted by a circle should be denied membership because he or she cannot afford to pay the National Lifetime Membership Fee. To that end, OΔK established the Gift of Membership Fund.

Purpose

To provide potential OΔK members with a grant equal to the total or a portion of the cost of the National Lifetime Membership Fee.

Funding

The Opportunity Fund is an OΔK program wherein donors graciously give to ensure qualified students do not have a financial barrier to membership. The Gift of Membership program is not endowed and subject to closure whenever the funds reach \$100.00 or less.

Qualifications

To be eligible for a Gift of Membership, the prospective member must have a demonstrated financial need. This need may be highlighted through college financial aid such as a Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Smart Grant, or other similar financial aid. It also may be demonstrated by evidence of family hardship such as death, serious illness, loss of job or home, or another significant family financial situation.

Each circle may request one Gift of Membership grant in each fiscal year for a maximum value equivalent to one National Lifetime Membership Fee. A circle may request multiple grants of values less than the full value if they believe that will meet the grant program's goals. For example: the circle may request two grants of 50% each if the recipients could pay one-half of the National Lifetime Membership Fee.

Process

1. The Gift of Membership Request Form is available on the OΔK website
2. A circle advisor must submit the application through the online form.
3. The request form asks the submitter to provide the details of the financial need and providing background on the applicant's leadership and campus involvement.

4. The request does not need any specific financial information but must provide the general circumstances of the student, including examples of financial aid including evidence of a Pell Grant or other need-based aid, or of the significant family or personal financial situation. OΔK only requires enough documentation to demonstrate a need that is not met in another way.
5. The individual receiving the grant may not apply.
6. Once the request form is received, OΔK National Headquarters staff will review and determine if the individual meets the criteria for awarding the grant. This process takes up to seven business days.
7. The circle advisor will be notified about the decision.

Grant Award

1. Grant Approval – if the grant is approved, the circle will be credited with the amount of the grant (up to the maximum cost of one lifetime membership fee). The circle will notify the individual that the grant has been awarded. OΔK asks the recipient to provide a brief thank you note to share with donors. OΔK also requests a professional headshot from the student to use in donor cultivation, stewardship, and solicitation materials.
2. Grant Denial – if the grant is not approved, the circle will inform the individual that funding will not be made available for membership. Circles are encouraged to be creative in seeking other ways to provide financial support for students with need.

For information or questions, contact:

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