



National Women's Martial Arts Federation

Financial Aid Policy

The mission of NWMAF is to promote the participation of women and girls in the martial arts. One way we strive to fulfill that mission is by offering need-based financial aid to our members to assist them in attending women's or girls' martial arts events. Funds are donated by members and aid recipients are selected by the Board.

Available funds vary from year to year. We do our best to help as many people as possible, but there is no guarantee that every applicant will receive aid. Members of any age or status may apply.

What Financial Aid Covers

Financial aid is for direct event costs only. Optional expenses are not covered by these funds. If you have special needs that add to your expenses make sure to explain them in your application. We rarely award any one person an amount that will cover all their expenses, and therefore an important part of your application is to provide a realistic plan to for how you will pay the balance of your expenses.

Recipient Obligations

Financial aid carries no on-site work requirement. All NWMAF members are equally encouraged to volunteer at NWMAF events. We all have something to offer the Federation, and many recipients have been volunteers before and/or after receiving aid. Please give back to NWMAF in whatever way you are able.

Application Link & Deadlines

Please submit your application online at <https://www.cognitofrms.com/NWMAF/FinancialAidApplication>. If you need a downloadable or hard-copy form, contact Fundraiser@NWMAF.org.

For NWMAF's annual conference (or any part thereof):

- Application Due: April 8
- Notification Made: April 22

Please do not register until you have heard back – you will receive registration instructions when awards have been finalized. If you submit your application by the deadline you will be eligible for the early bird registration rate whether you receive an award or not.

For other events:

- Application Due: At least six weeks in advance of the event registration deadline
- Notification Made: Within 3 weeks of application

Award Criteria

The Board will consider the following criteria when evaluating applications. The criteria are evaluated only in the positive. For example, an applicant may receive points for being a long-time member but a new member will not lose points. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide examples of how they meet the criteria.

- Complete application
- Member in good standing (only current members in good standing are eligible)
- An individual's application may not be prioritized if they received financial aid the previous year

Applicants may receive additional consideration if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Members with greater financial need

- Members who have supported the organization with many years of membership
- First-time conference attendees
- Members who have not attended the annual conference in the preceding 2 years
- Members who have contributed service to NWMAF in prior years, including volunteering or teaching at the conference, serving on a committee, or other activities that help the organization
- Members who provide realistic plans on how they will pay their balance
- A parent's long-term membership or NWMAF service may be considered in their child's application
- An instructor's long-term membership or NWMAF service may be considered in their student's application
- Applicants whose age, race/ethnicity, ability status, and/or other identities or lived experiences are under-represented in the NWMAF membership or conference attendance