

Park Scholarships

ENDORSEMENT INFORMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Fall 2020

The Park Scholarships program, now in its 25th year, brings exceptional students to NC State based on their accomplishments and potential in **scholarship, leadership, service, and character**. The program develops and supports Park Scholars in these areas, preparing them for lifelong contributions to the university, state, nation, and world.

The Park Scholarships program is named for NC State alumnus Roy H. Park '31. The Park Foundation is dedicated to education, media, and the environment, and has supported the Park Scholarships program since its inception in 1996. Scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding entering freshmen for **undergraduate study in any discipline**, with two-thirds designated for North Carolina residents.

Park Scholars receive a **four-year scholarship** valued at \$112,000 for North Carolina residents and \$203,000 for out-of-state students, including tuition and fees; room and board; books and personal expenses; educational trips; retreats; seminars; and enrichment grants for research, service, and international projects.

NC State was founded with a purpose: to create economic, societal, and intellectual prosperity for the people of North Carolina and the country. We began as a land-grant institution grounded in agriculture and engineering. Today, we're a **preeminent research enterprise** that excels across disciplines. Our students, faculty, and staff forge powerful partnerships with government, industry, nonprofits, and academia to **remake our world for the better**. Our more than 36,000 undergraduate and graduate students learn by doing through research, internships, co-ops, and world-changing service. Our 9,000 faculty and staff are world leaders in their fields, bridging the divides between academic disciplines and training high-caliber students to **meet tomorrow's challenges**.

DETERMINING WHOM TO ENDORSE: DOs and DON'Ts

- **DO:** Familiarize yourself with the Park Scholarships program and its four selection criteria by visiting our website, park.ncsu.edu, and reviewing all enclosed documents. The Park Scholarships Selection Committee evaluates applications on the basis of **scholarship, leadership, service, and character**. Our selection process is one of the most competitive in the nation; we expect to receive about 2,100 applications and award about 40 scholarships.
- **DO:** Consider there are many experiences that lend to scholarship, leadership, service, and character. A student may appear to have fewer qualifying factors on the surface, but show a deep intrinsic motivation and connection to their involvement. Consider whether a student is limited by outside circumstances and has gone out of their way to take advantage of what is available to them.
- **DO:** Announce the Park Scholarships to your students who demonstrate exceptional potential. (To be eligible for the Park Scholarships, candidates must be applying for fall, first-year admission into a baccalaureate program at NC State.) Invite them to prepare a résumé and short personal statement describing their educational pursuits, and leadership and public service activities.
- **DO:** Establish a Scholarship Committee to review the candidates' educational records, résumés, and personal statements. Evaluate candidates based on the Park Scholarships selection criteria. Endorse up to two candidates.
- **DO:** Inform faculty and staff within your school that you are seeking to endorse two students for the Park Scholarships. Allow them the opportunity to recommend a student or assist in the evaluation process.
- **DO:** Encourage other outstanding and highly qualified students who did not receive your school's endorsement to self-endorse and apply by November 1. Please see our website for more information.
- **DON'T:** Endorse students who are ranked at the top of their class simply because of their ranking. We seek dynamic individuals who can contribute to society in a variety of ways – not just academically.
- **DON'T:** "Spread the love." If the same students are truly the best fits for two or more scholarship programs, endorse them for both/all – rather than selecting less qualified students for the sake of endorsing as many students as possible.
- **DON'T:** Endorse students based on their current top choice college or intended major. Students change their minds! For many students, it's not until they participate in a scholarship program's final selection activities that the college becomes one of their top choices. Experiencing a place and its people firsthand makes a difference.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENDORSEMENT

Complete the School Endorsement Form at go.ncsu.edu/endorse. Login credentials are not required and only one endorsement form may be completed per school. We encourage you to use the checklist below to collect the information you need to complete your endorsement.

- Endorsements are due **October 15**.
- The deadline for all Park Scholarships application materials – including the Park Scholarships application, letters of recommendation, and application for admission to NC State – is November 1.

CHECKLIST FOR HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Late August - Early September

- Notify your best students about Park Scholarships. Form a Scholarship Committee.

Mid-September

- Collect résumés and personal statements from candidates; forward to your Scholarship Committee for review.

Early October

- Select two students to endorse; meet with them to discuss their next steps.
- Give each endorsed student a Park Scholarships brochure and *Time-Sensitive Actions for Endorsed Candidates* sheet.
- Write down the email address each student is using on the application for admission. **Verify accuracy.**

Endorsee Name _____ Email _____

Endorsee Name _____ Email _____

- Offer to assist them in selecting recommenders who know them well and can provide strong letters of support.

Endorsee Name _____ Recommenders 1 _____ 2 _____

Endorsee Name _____ Recommenders 1 _____ 2 _____

- Encourage them to begin their applications and essay responses early, and to review their materials with you or others prior to submission.
- Inform them that the Park Scholarships program and NC State will not require ACT or SAT scores for consideration for Fall 2021 entry. Refer them to go.ncsu.edu/test-scores for details.

No later than October 15

- Endorse your candidates through the School Endorsement Form at go.ncsu.edu/endorse.

By October 22

- Make sure candidates have received application instructions via email and have begun the Park Scholarships application, including entering the names and email addresses of their recommenders. Suggest that they mark the following dates on their calendars:
 - Sunday, November 1, 2020: Park Scholarships and NC State Undergraduate Admission applications deadline
 - Saturday-Sunday, January 9-10, 2021: Park Scholarships Semifinalist Interviews
 - Friday-Saturday, February 19-20, 2021: Park Scholarships Final Selection Activities