

Hats Off To the P.E.O. Scholar Award

(Wearing a safari hat and binoculars the program presenter begins the program)

On safari, one wants to be sure to look for the Big Five. These are the elephant, rhino, leopard, lion and water buffalo. Finding all five of these animals makes for a successful safari. Having a successful candidate for a P.E.O. Scholar Award also involves exploring five major components.

What are we looking at here?

The P.E.O. Scholar Award was the fifth international project of the P.E.O. sisterhood, beginning in 1991. It is a one-time highly competitive award. Currently the amount of the award is \$25,000. Now let's look at the five major components.

(Change to mortarboard and rope or hood)

1. Who can be a P.E.O. Scholar?

Ans. A woman who is citizen of the US or Canada AND:

- Is a full-time graduate student
- Has at least one academic year remaining in her course of study
- Is within 2 years of completing her course of study
- Demonstrates academic excellence, maturity and seriousness of purpose
- Has clearly defined and realistically obtainable goals.

(Change to chef hat and spoon)

2. How is this award obtained?

The ingredients that go into applying for and obtaining the P.E.O. Scholar award are:

- The local chapter nominates a deserving candidate by a majority voice vote
- The P.E.O. Scholar Award chair completes an online nomination form found on the International website that includes a letter of recommendation
- After receiving the Chapter Nomination Form, the P.E.O. Executive Office will email the nominee with instructions and a link to the application

(Change to Olympic Judge's hat and medal)

3. How is the Scholar chosen?

The application is evaluated by the three members of the Board of Trustees for the P.E.O. Scholar Awards. They will consider:

- nominee's proposal
- potential to make significant contributions in her field(s) of endeavor or to make a positive impact on society
- recommendations from three university professors or professional mentors
- evidence of scholarly activities (publications, presentations, patents, performances, etc.)
- academic awards and honors (honor societies, scholarships, etc.)
- academic record
- career objectives

(Change to Jockey hat and stopwatch)

4. When does this award occur?

As with any race, timing is everything! The online nomination form is available every year from August 20 to November 20. Winners are notified by May 1. The award is sent in two installments- upon receipt of student's confirmation of enrollment and in early February.

(Change to gardener's hat and trowel)

5. Why pursue this project?

Gardeners are eternally hopefully and optimistic. They eagerly await the future growth that is the result of their labor. P.E.O. scholars represent some of the brightest hopes for our world's future. We know that graduate studies can be a lonely, frustrating and stressful time. These women need our full support, and we will all benefit from their success.

Source: Brenda Carty, AQ, 2001

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