

Need-based Tuition and/or Private Lesson Scholarships

Scholarship applications are due by AUGUST 18, 2019.

Information on the Application

The application is part of the RFYO registration form and can be found at RFYO.org. Before beginning the form, please make sure that you have the AGI from your most recent tax form. This is the only specific piece of information required in order to complete the form. All other questions pertain to contact information and details about the student applying. Once you begin the form it does not allow you to save it come back to it later.

Parent Letter Requesting Scholarship Assistance to support your application

You are required to submit a letter as part of the application. **This is the most important part of the scholarship application.** If you are applying for scholarship for more than one child you are welcome to combine all information into one letter, but you do need to complete separate application forms for each child. Please email the letter to sarah@rfyouthorchestra.org explaining your need for financial assistance. If you wish for only the scholarship committee to see this information, please seal the letter in an envelope and mail it to the RFYO address and Sarah will pass it along to the committee.

Please include in the letter:

1. Any additional information to support your scholarship application - e.g. temporary financial difficulties that may not be reflected in your AGI.
2. Please state whether you wish to apply for scholarship for RFYO tuition or private lessons, or both.
3. **State the amount you are able to afford for tuition, or per week/month for private lessons.** This is most helpful when the committee is making their decisions. Tuition may be paid in installments.
4. Also describe how you support your child in his or her private lessons, daily practicing at home, youth orchestra, and musical studies in general. Please note your student's commitment to playing his or her instrument and to fully participating in the RFYO and private lessons.

General Information About the RFYO Need-based Scholarship Program

All students are accepted into the RFYO regardless of their ability to pay tuition.

The Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra (RFYO) requires all students to take weekly private lessons to support their individual growth as players.

Returning students are required to reapply during the summer before each school year.

The RFYO offers need-based, partial scholarships to students who demonstrate a strong commitment to weekly lessons and full participation in the RFYO. Students must follow all RFYO attendance policies and the practicing requirements and studio policies of their private teacher. Applicants who qualify for scholarship will receive a reduced lesson rate for a set number of lessons for the school year as described in the award letter. The remaining cost, according to the rates set by the RFYO, must be paid directly to the teacher according to their studio policy. The lesson scholarship essentially offers subsidized private lessons. Almost all families receiving scholarship pay some amount for private lessons, at a rate between \$10 and \$40 per lesson.

For example: A student may receive a scholarship at the start of a school year for 27 private lessons of 45 minutes in length where you are responsible for paying \$30 per lesson and the RFYO pays the remaining \$30 per lesson. The family would pay the teacher directly for the \$30 per lesson. The RFYO pays the teacher directly for the remaining \$30.

- Scholarship amounts vary based on financial need.
- The RFYO has a limited amount of scholarship funds available and this ensures that the RFYO scholarship committee is able to make informed decisions with current information.
- Teachers will not see financial documents, but are informed of the scholarship amount and requirements.
- Scholarships are awarded per school year. Students who do not follow their teacher's studio policy regarding cancelling or rescheduling lessons, or do not follow RFYO attendance policies, may have their scholarship revoked at any time during the year.

- Students must practice as assigned by their private teacher!

The RFMS lesson scholarship program is structured so that students may enroll in weekly 30 or 45 minute private lessons with their private teacher throughout the school year. RFMS sets the full amount paid to private teachers at \$40 per 30-minute lesson and \$60 per 45-minute lesson and determines the lesson length based on age, playing level, and teacher recommendation. Often a teacher's regular lesson rates may differ from these rates, however rates are set at the same level for all scholarship students and all private teachers. If you elect to take any lessons with your teacher outside of the scholarship, they may choose what rate to charge and arrange that directly with you.

Once the scholarship committee considers your completed application, you will receive a letter stating whether or not you have received a scholarship for the semester. If you have received a scholarship, the letter will include details on the amount received as well as the amount you will be responsible for paying your teacher directly.

1. Previous year attendance and participation is also factored into the committee's decisions.
2. A limited number of need-based partial and full scholarships are available.
3. All financial information is completely confidential and will be seen only by the scholarship committee.
4. All students are required to have full attendance and participate actively in the RFYO for the entire school year and follow the lesson policies of their private teacher. Regular practicing is required!
5. If you receive a partial scholarship for **RFYO tuition, the reduced tuition, or an installment, is due by September 15.**

Sarah Graf is your contact for any questions relating to scholarships, but the scholarship committee makes all decisions regarding these. The committee is made up of 3-5 local members of the musical community who understand the importance of these scholarships and are professional in maintaining confidentiality for all scholarship applicants and information. The committee does not include RFYO teachers.
