

**Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association**  
**William S. O'Brien**  
**Memorial Masonic Scholarship**  
**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
**(Cover Letter)**

Dear Applicant:

On behalf of the Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association, I would like to thank you for your interest and participation in our Essay Contest.

Attached you will find the Essay Contest Rules and Guidelines as well as the Scholarship Application for the year 2013-2014.

This year there will be **one (1) \$1,500.00 Scholarship** awarded to a student locally in Pinellas County or West Pasco County in the State of Florida who participates in this contest. All details and instructions necessary to your participation are to be found in the Rules and Guidelines (attached).

Freemasonry is committed and dedicated to the principle of Public Education for everyone. Since at least the Middle Ages, the Fraternity has maintained education as a core value and goal as a means of establishing true equality among men.

The Masonic Fraternity is a broad based, worldwide group of extremely dedicated men, who contribute over **three million dollars (\$3,000,000) DAILY to charities**. These include, by are by no means limited to, the Shrine Hospitals, Aphasia clinics, nursing homes and orphanages, and clinics for the hearing and visually impaired as well as research on heart disease.

The formal records of our Society date back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Today there are more than four million (4,000,000) Brothers worldwide. Masons were, originally, stonemasons and craftsmen who built the beautiful, monumental cathedrals that mark the European Continent.

We are not a religious organization, but we do require a belief in a Supreme Being or Deity. We strongly believe in and support individual freedom, political and religious, as well as the right of any human to seek education and live a fulfilling existence.

The Association's Scholarship is named after William (Bill) S. O'Brien who founded the Scholarship Committee and fund to help local students. W.: Bill was a Past Master of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 F.& A.M. in Madeira Beach, Florida (1991) but was devoted to supporting students throughout the Tampa Bay area, not *just* in his hometown, and championed the Association's Scholarship Committee for a number of years. Regrettably, Bill passed away in December 2003. His enthusiasm and guidance is greatly missed by all.

On behalf of the Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association, I sincerely appreciate your participation in this contest and wish you success in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Charles Clinger  
President  
Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association

**Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association**  
**William S. O'Brien**  
**Memorial Masonic Scholarship**  
**ESSAY CONTEST**

**Rules and Regulations**

**Eligibility:** All Graduating High School Seniors and graduates in Pinellas County or West Pasco County who will be attending a **State of Florida Supported School (college, university, community college or division of higher education governed by the State Board of Regents)** during the following term (semester or quarter). The applicant must enter the school within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions) after having been awarded the scholarship.

**Requirements:** A 1,000 word essay on the topic **“Why Education is Important.”** All work must be original and the essay becomes the property of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

**Deadline:** April 1, 2014. The application and essay must be postmarked on that date or in the possession of the Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association Secretary.

**Mail to:** Richard Whitmyer  
Secretary – Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association  
1739 Bellhurst Way  
Trinity, FL 34655  
Or  
Send as a Word or PDF file attached to an email to [secretary@suncoastmasons.org](mailto:secretary@suncoastmasons.org) . In the subject line enter “Essay Contest for Scholarship”

**Purpose:** To continue Freemasonry’s support of the youth in our society and to reinforce our belief in the Public School Systems in our Nation.

**Information:** The scholarship checks will be made payable **to the institution Designated by the recipient and placed into an account for the sole purpose of the recipient’s use.** If not utilized within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions), **the scholarship will be withdrawn** and added to the following year’s program.

**Please refer to the next page for guidelines on essay preparation. It is critical that all essays submitted contain the proper content—the topic is “Why Education is Important” and be in an acceptable format. Essays will also be judged based upon content, grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation and other such aspects.**

**ESSAY CONTEST**

**FORMAT**

1. The essay should be typed using Times New Roman type case.
2. Type size should be 12 pt.
3. The essay, **including the cover page**, should be double spaced **with no additional spaces between paragraphs**.
4. The essay should be typed using standard indentation at the beginning of each paragraph.
5. The standard margin should be one inch (1 in.) top, bottom, left, and right.
6. The essay should have a cover page. Centered on the cover page, top to bottom and between the margins should be the following: title of essay, author's full name, name of school at which currently enrolled.
7. Pages should be numbered beginning with the title page as page 1. Page numbers should be in the upper right corner of each page.
8. Each page should contain a header, also in the upper right, which contains the author's last name. Should the title page be separated from the essay, this will provide for immediate identification. If MS Word is used to prepare the essay, the inclusion of a header and page number may be preset. Refer to MS Word Help for instructions on the use of headers.
9. The exact word count should be included at the end of the essay. If the author utilizes MS Word, the word count can be printed automatically. Refer to MS Word Help for directions.
10. The essay will be judged based on **content, grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and other such aspects of proper language usage and essay construction**.
11. It is strongly recommended that the author ask a member of the school's English faculty to review the essay for format, style, content, and construction.

**Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association**  
**William S. O'Brien**  
**Memorial Masonic Scholarship**  
**2013-2014 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**Please type:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street City and State Zip

**Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Number Month Day Year

**Social Security Account Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Present School or Last School Attended:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street City and State Zip

**Estimated Date of High School Graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Month and Year

**I plan to attend [give full name of college or university]:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

**Intended Course of Study or Major:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED MUST BE PROVIDED TO QUALIFY.**

**Return Completed Application and Essay to:**

Richard Whitmyer  
Secretary - Suncoast Masters & Wardens Association  
1739 Bellhurst Way  
Trinity, FL 34655  
[secretary@suncoastmasons.org](mailto:secretary@suncoastmasons.org)

[NOTE: Application and essay may be submitted as a Word document or PDF file attached to an email message. In the subject line enter "Essay Contest for Scholarship."]