



THE SUNSHINE STATE BMX ASSOCIATION ALICE BIXLER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Sunshine State BMX Association Scholarship Program was established in 2008 to honor Alice Bixler for her many contributions to the sport of BMX and to the State of Florida BMX program.

Alice first became involved with BMX in 1974 when she took the neighborhood kids to the local track in Sarasota. It wasn't long before she started volunteering at the track as a scorer and began her love for the sport. In 1979, the Sarasota track joined the sanction of the National Bicycle League and that same year, Florida formed the Sunshine State BMX Association (SSA). The SSA's purpose was to coordinate the state championship series and grow BMX in Florida. She joined the board and was elected secretary but within a few months everyone else on the board resigned and she became the State Race Commissioner of Florida. And she's never looked back.

The first NBL President's Cup race was held in 1984, a state against state competition. Florida won the Cup 23 times, two of the Cups were retired to Florida. Alice was there for every single one of them! She was also involved with the NBL in many capacities throughout the years. She was honored by the NBL as Volunteer of the Year in 1995 and in 2008, she was inducted into the NBL Hall of Fame.

Under Alice's leadership, Florida created the best and largest state program while sanctioned with the NBL. In the past, there were as many as 22 tracks in Florida. Presently, there are 16 tracks in the state that are sanctioned through USA BMX.

In 2007, after 33 years of volunteer service, she decided that it was time to pass the primary leadership role of the SSA to some of the capable volunteers already deeply involved with the state program. That same year, to honor her support for BMX in Florida, the SSA created a scholarship program and named it after Alice.

In its first year, (2008) the SSA Alice Bixler Scholarship program awarded 3 scholarships totaling \$4,350.00. As of 2017, the SSA has awarded 104 scholarships totaling \$86,750.

PURPOSE: The Sunshine State BMX Association/Alice Bixler Scholarship Program was created to assist students and their families with meeting the costs of furthering their education at an under-graduate college, technical/trade school or graduate school.

DEADLINE: Postmarked by April 1, 2018

HOW AWARDED: The award will be presented to the recipient at the SSA Florida Cup Series Awards Ceremony. If you are unable to be at the awards ceremony, you will be notified by mail. The actual check will be sent directly to the Financial Aid office of the recipient's intended school.

SELECTION PROCEDURE: The Scholarship Committee will review or send out for review the application materials and grade the applicants on five criteria – scholastic achievement, BMX involvement, community involvement, extracurricular activities and financial need. The committee will select who they feel are the most deserving applicants. Recommendations will then be made, in order of preference, to the SSA Board of Directors for final approval. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be determined by the financial need of the participant. The number of applicants selected will depend on the amount of scholarship funds available for that year.

QUALIFICATIONS:

To be considered for the scholarship, a student must:

- 1) Have a current USABMX competition license.
- 2) A rider must have participated in and qualified for the Florida Cup Series promoted by the SSA in the race season in which the scholarship is being awarded.
- 3) Be a Florida resident who is a high school senior, graduate, attending a post-secondary school or technical/trade school at the time of application.
- 4) Be accepted and plan to attend an accredited post-secondary school, technical/trade or graduate school as a full time or part-time student for the complete award year.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1) You may download the application from the internet at www.floridabmx.org or obtain an application by writing to:

The SSA/Alice Bixler Scholarship Fund
c/o Paula Braun
11049 90th Terrace
Seminole, FL 33772

2) Complete the application and attach a copy of the letter of acceptance from the school you plan to attend. If you haven't received your acceptance letter by the deadline, it must be received by May 1 to be eligible for consideration.

3) Submit two letters of recommendation from any member of the BMX community that participates in managing or running races. This letter should state what they feel are the student's outstanding characteristics and why they should receive this award. The letters of recommendation must accompany the application.

4) Submit a personal letter (preferably typed) telling the selection committee about their high school/college activities and achievements, community interest, personal hobbies, some family background, reason for wanting to continue their education and their need for assistance.

5) Your current transcript (high school or college) must be included with the application.

6) Submit an essay with application on one of the following subjects

- What is good and bad about being involved in BMX?
- How has BMX been an influence in your life?
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.

NOTE: All required items and letters must accompany the formal application. Do not send items separately. (The only exception is the one mentioned above in section 2 of the application procedure).

ALL APPLICATIONS THAT ARE NOT POSTMARKED BY THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR A SCHOLARSHIP.

Mail your completed application by **April 1, 2018**...the deadline to:

The SSA/Alice Bixler Scholarship Program
c/o Paula Braun
11049 90th Terrace
Seminole, FL 33772

SSA/Alice Bixler Scholarship Application

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

High School Attended: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Year in College (Fall 2018 semester): _____ () Freshman () Sophomore () Junior () Senior

Name of College, University or Technical/Trade School you attend or plan to attend:

Educational Plans and Objectives: _____

Number in Family: _____

Father's Name: _____

Father's Occupation: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Mother's Occupation: _____

Yearly Household Gross Income: _____ Less than \$25,000 _____ \$25,000-\$50,000 _____

\$50,000-\$75,000 _____ \$75,000-\$100,000 _____ More than \$100,000

Are you employed? ___ Yes ___ No If yes: ___ Full Time ___ Part Time

Number of hours per week _____ Type of employment: _____

List two character references other than relatives:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

How long have you been involved in BMX? _____

On a separate sheet:

- List awards you have earned or experiences that you consider special.
- List some of your hobbies or special interest outside of BMX.
- List any special awards or honors that you received in fields outside of BMX.
- Any other special circumstances you would want the scholarship committee to consider.

I certify this information to be correct:

Signature

Date

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1, 2018!