



The Coach Don Watkind's Scholarship 2025 Application Form

The SI Diversity, Disability, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is now accepting applications to the Don Watkind's Scholarship for the 2025 season!

Introduction

The Coach Donald Watkind's Scholarship was established in 2017 to enable person(s) of a diverse background, circumstance, ability, or hardship to participate in the sport of swimming. The award will pay swim-related expenses for the chosen San Diego Imperial Swimming athlete(s). The intent of the award(s) is to encourage the growth of the sport of swimming through outreach to underserved and/or diverse communities in the San Diego region.

The Fund is named in honor of Coach Donald Watkind's, who focused on each individual swimmer's unique abilities, and character. Don encouraged individual accomplishment through the values of (FIRST) Fun, Integrity, Respect, Service, and Team.

Eligibility Criteria for Recipients

The intent of the award(s) is to enable person(s) of a diverse background, circumstance, ability, or hardship to participate in the sport of swimming.

Selection Criteria:

- At the time of award, the swimmer must be an active athlete in good standing registered with USA Swimming under the San Diego Imperial Swimming (SI) region.
- The athlete must be a passionate swimmer who has consistently exhibited the character and values that Coach Donald H. Watkind's taught through his coaching.
- Selection will focus on the character of the individual regardless of competitive performance level.
- The selection of the recipient will consider the values of diversity, disability, equity, and inclusion (background, physical or mental disability, hardship).
- The selection of the recipient will consider financial need if documentation is provided. USA Swimming registered Outreach athletes are encouraged to apply.

How to Apply

All applicants must submit the following:

1. Filled out Scholarship Application Form
2. Evidence of financial need - OPTIONAL but recommended
3. Personal Statement

Award applicants should write a short personal statement (minimum 1 page, but no more than 5 pages) describing why they believe they are a good candidate for the Don Watkins Scholarship. The applying child must be the author of the statement. Parents may assist younger children, or English-speaking friends may assist with language translation. Consider including information about past experiences, why swimming is important to you, and/or how you think the award would benefit you. It is acceptable to submit media such as pictures, art, or video (please make sure they are in a standard easy-to-review format).

Please upload the application and all supplementary materials to the [Google Form](#). If award applicants need to mail their application and/or supplementary material, please reach out to Juli Arzave (SI Diversity, Disability, Equity, & Inclusion Chair) for the address.

Applications must be submitted by July 18, 2025 at the latest. Award recipients and their teams will be notified no later than July 27, 2025.

For any questions or concerns, please contact SI Diversity, Disability, Equity, & Inclusion Chair, Juli Arzave (julissaarzave@gmail.com).