



DR. ROBERT J. SWAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

INTRODUCTION:

Dr. Swan walked on early in 2013. He left an enormous impact in Rocky Boy, Montana, and Indian communities across the United States. There are frankly too many details of his life to share, but above all, Dr. Swan was interested in leaving the world a better place. His career in education was a testament to that, and this scholarship is designed to help provide its recipients with support in achieving greater educational or military credentials.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS:

The award will be presented to up to two (2) graduating seniors at the end of the school year. Each scholarship will be for \$750 – payable after the first semester completed of post-secondary education (with at least a 2.50 GPA) or completion of basic military training.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduating high school senior (from any high school)
- Enrolled member of a Federally Recognized Tribe (preference will be given to those enrolled in the Chippewa Cree Tribe)
- Application Form – see attached (must be completed in its entirety or the applicant will not be considered)
- Copy of most recent high school transcript
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher, mentor, or community member specifically addressing why you are the best candidate for this scholarship
- 300-word essay (see below/attached for more details)
- Turned in no later than Friday, April 25, 2025 (see below for instructions)
- Must maintain at least a 2.50 GPA during first semester/quarter of college to collect the scholarship

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS:

Attached to this application is a brief biography of Dr. Swan. Please read it prior to writing your essay. In 300 words or less, please describe how you will carry Dr. Swan's legacy forward. Please be specific on how you will aid in making an impact on others and make the world a better place as Dr. Swan did in his life.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Submit all application components listed above no later than Friday, April 25, 2025 (at noon MDT) to the following address to be considered.

Dr. Robert J. Swan Memorial Scholarship

435 Oats Road
Box Elder, MT 59521
(406) 395-4759 (fax)
ssnhale@gmail.com



DR. ROBERT J. SWAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP – APPLICATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS:

In order to be qualified for the Dr. Robert J. Swan Memorial Scholarship, applicants must include this form in its entirety, along with all other required documents by Friday, April 25, 2025.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF:

Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone Number:

Email:

Tribal Affiliation:

Parents or Guardians Names:

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS:

Name of High School:

Graduation Year:

Cumulative GPA:

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT POST-HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC PLANS:

Where do you intend on completing your post-high school academics:

What is your intended area of concentration:

When do you plan to enter your post-high school academics:

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (optional):

Are there any other considerations you would like us to consider regarding your application:



DR. ROBERT J. SWAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS:

Below is a brief biography of Dr. Swan. Please read it prior to writing your essay. In addition to the other application requirements, in 300 words or less, please describe how you will carry Dr. Swan's legacy forward. **Please be specific on how you will aid in making an impact on others and make the world a better place as Dr. Swan did in his life.**

DR. ROBERT J SWAN | BIOGRAPHY

Bob was born on Nov. 11, 1942, to Charles and Margaret (Parisian) Swan, in Harlem, Mont. He grew up on Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation and graduated from Box Elder High School in 1961.

After high school, Bob joined the United States Navy, where he served our country with honor from 1961 to 1967. He was proud of his time serving aboard the USS Essex. In October 1962, the Essex was docked in Havana, Cuba, and was ordered to pull out in the middle of the night. It was not until years later that Bob learned how close the Essex came to being torpedoed during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Bob was a proud member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After his honorable discharge in 1967, Bob began his educational career, earning a Certificate in Electrical Technology from Northern Montana College (1967), and a bachelor's degree in sociology (1971) and an MA in Guidance in Counseling (1972) from the University of Montana. Bob was a faithful and ferocious fan of his Griz! Bob then went on to the University of South Dakota, where he earned an Ed.D. degree in Adult and Higher Education Administration in 1977. Bob was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the University of Montana in 2003.

Dr. Swan earned numerous scholarships, fellowships, and awards throughout his educational career and beyond. Dr. Swan was a fervent advocate of Indian education and played major leadership roles throughout the field during his career. Among these were National Indian Educator of the Year in 1979 and presidential appointment by Jimmy Carter to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education from 1979-1982. He served as chairman of NACIE from 1979-80. Bob also served as president of the National Indian Education Association (1989-90), Haskell Indian Junior College (now Haskell Indian Nations University) from 1988 to 1993, and was appointed to the White House Conference on Indian Education Advisory Committee in 1991-92. This latter appointment was confirmed by a unanimous Senate vote, which is a rare occasion these days.

Dr. Swan served in numerous leadership positions throughout his professional career. These included director of the Fort Belknap Tribal Education Department from 1977 to 1984, where Dr. Swan was one of the leading forces behind the creation of Fort Belknap College. After serving for a year as the director of the Tribal Education Department for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Bob returned to his home of Rocky Boy, where he served as federal projects coordinator from 1985 to 1997.

Ever the entrepreneur, Bob began developing consulting businesses in college. Bob and his cousin Edward Parisian created a company called "SWEDCO" (Swan and Ed's Company), which later morphed into a company called "LPS and Associates" (with the addition of Eric LaPointe). Bob later created a sole proprietorship called "RJS and Associates" where he was the only associate. In 1996, Bob decided to incorporate "RJS and Associates, Inc." which was the second company created under the laws of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. RJS began modestly and has grown over the years into a very successful consulting company. Bob served as the CEO from 1997-2004, when he took a job with the Chippewa Cree Community Development Corporation as the business manager. Bob turned over the operations of RJS to his eldest son, Jim.

Dr. Swan was especially proud of his legacy with RJS. Over the past 40 years, Dr. Swan and his associates have successfully raised more than \$350 million, mostly for Indian Country. Dr. Swan was also proud of the fact that the majority of these funds were brought into his home reservation of Rocky Boy. In addition to prolific grant writing, Dr. Swan and his associates specialized in training, technical assistance, program evaluations and planning. Dr. Swan was proud of RJS and it was his desire that it serve as his legacy, to continue on long beyond his time on this earth.

On a personal level, Dr. Swan was known for his kind heart, generosity and friendliness toward everyone he knew. Bob was a voracious reader, loved to hunt and fish, and was an avid collector of American Indian art, sometimes helping out the prototypical "starving artist." Bob became an avid user of Facebook in his final few years, where he was known for the daily posts which brought great joy and laughter to his Facebook Family and Friends. Bob brought great joy to everyone he met and even people he didn't meet. Bob's best friend on Facebook was a man that he never met in person. Bob and Wes shared daily posts that entertained many people. Bob's last post ended, "This (New Years Day) was also a day to forgive everyone that you had words with the prior year. Not that way anymore. Too bad." Bob saw the good in people and the power of forgiveness.

Bob married Susan (Brooks) Swan in 1965. To this union were born three children, James Richard, Ann Margaret and Jon Paul. Bob and Susan later divorced. Bob married Diane (Garcia) Swan in 2000. Bob took Diane's son, Gerold Keith Parker, as his own. Bob was very proud of all of his children, but his real pride and joy were his grandchildren, Courtney, Jordan, Jenna, Nicholas, Winter, Neiko, El, Nathan, Myka and Charlie.