

Youth Financial Aid Program

Eligibility

Cascadia Quest offers financial aid for selected youth taking part in our rite of passage programs. Criteria for selection are:

- a) Significant and demonstrable financial need (generally total annual family income will be well below 25 times the registration fee, i.e. less than \$37,500/year and without savings, assets, family wealth, or other resources)
- b) Clear, demonstrated, authentic desire and commitment to do the rite of passage
- c) Clear and demonstrated fundraising efforts on applicants' own behalf (see *Fundraising Ideas* doc for suggestions)
- d) Commitment to attending all program events, including the nine-day rite of passage, Welcome Home Ceremony, nine months of mentorship meetings, and Honoring Ceremony
- e) Willingness to attend a funders' luncheon after the rite of passage

To be eligible, you must fill out our application completely and honestly. Our funds are limited and will generally go to those with the greatest financial need. If you truly do not have money for this and do not have access to other financial resources, please apply. If you do not meet the criteria for financial aid but still need some help, payment plans can be arranged by contacting our office. The *Fundraising Ideas* document is available on our website.

The maximum aid amount is \$1100 and will most likely be in the \$500 - \$800 range. Full funding of registration fee is not available at this time. Expect to pay some money and do your own fundraising in addition to applying for assistance. We will need to see that you are taking fundraising action steps before we can release funds. *If fundraising exceeds expected amount, assistance will be reduced proportionately.* Payment plans and fundraising counseling are available. Contact us ASAP.

Submission

A complete Financial Aid Application includes the following:

1. Questionnaire
2. Financial Worksheet (to demonstrate need)
3. Proposed Fundraising Plan

A Fundraising Plan is a list of clear, doable action steps that will bring you closer to your fundraising goal. Each step should have dates attached to them to give you a clear idea of when you need to complete each task. Be creative!

Your application must be received on or before:

1. Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications must be typed or handwritten, and sent in hard copy, not electronic format. Don't try to email it, especially last minute. Illegible handwriting will not be considered. Give yourself ample time to fill out the questionnaire, worksheet, and to write a fundraising plan. Recipients will be announced on Friday, May 19, 2023.

Applying for financial aid, just like the rite of passage itself, will require introspection, familial reflection, challenging conversations, creativity, self-belief, getting out of your comfort zone, and discovering capacities and resources you may not have known you have. We understand that this application asks a lot of you. We believe the benefits will far exceed the scholarship itself. We wish you the best of luck! Go for it!

Application Checklist

1. Completed Financial Aid Questionnaire
2. Completed Financial Worksheet
3. Draft of a Fundraising Plan with action steps and 'complete by' dates.
2. Send to Cascadia Quest, PO BOX 50594, Eugene, OR 97405 or drop off at our office during work hours. Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Thank you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Youth Financial Worksheet

Use the following to assess your total financial need for the rite of passage program. It will help you discern how much you have and how much must be fundraised.

REGISTRATION FEE (includes 10-day initiation and 9-month mentorship): **\$1,800**

FOOD: Breakfast and dinner are provided for 8 days + \$ _____
 (no food is necessary during the fasting time).

You will need to bring lunch, snacks, and special diet **Total Cost:** \$ _____
 foods for 8 days. See our food suggestion document.
 Budget \$7 to \$20 per day depending on type and
 quality of food you need.

FUNDING/FUNDRAISING: First, it is important to understand that your rite of passage is a major event in your life, similar in importance to a wedding. Expect to give more to this than an average activity. Also, people expect you to ask for help to pay for these types of things and understand that they cost money.

Next, assess your finances: How much do I have in savings/checking? Investments? Each month from job income? Other income sources? How much can I contribute each month from now until the initiation? How much can my parents contribute each month? How much can my other family contribute?

Personal contribution	\$ _____
Parents' contributions	\$ _____
Other contributions	\$ _____
Other fundraising sources	\$ _____
Total Funding Available	\$ _____
Total Cost	- \$ _____
Total Fundraising Needed (subtract total funding from total cost)	\$ _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fundraising Plan

Please use this page to discuss the steps you will take or have taken to fundraise for your rite of passage. Include things like events, outreach to friends or relatives, and dates and deadlines for activities.

Fundraising Ideas

How do you go about asking for contributions?

1. Get clear about why you're doing your initiation. When you can see the importance of this initiation for yourself you can explain it to your friends, family, and community more easily. Watch this TED talk about "starting with why":
https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action
2. Recognize that your initiation is a major life event. It's perfectly okay and expected to ask for support to be able to do it. Asking for support in the form of money can be uncomfortable. That doesn't make it bad or wrong. Traditionally, it was the community and elders that made it possible for young people to be initiated. Watch this TED talk about the art of asking:
https://www.ted.com/talks/amanda_palmer_the_art_of_asking
3. Make a list of people and organizations you can ask for financial support. Seek their and others' help. Be bold. (Examples: family, grandparents, friends, teammates, fellow church goers, scouts, club members, whole organizations, or other clubs). People your parents and grandparents age are more likely to have the resources to help. But don't rule out peers and those just a little older.
4. How are you going to ask? In-person (the best), over the phone (next best), email (not as great), Facebook (not as great, but good starting point to set up a time to meet or talk), online crowd-funding platform GoFundMe.com or YouCaring.com (can be effective, but usually requires many personal contacts to be effective, i.e. a big online friend list and email list).
5. Invite potential contributors to schedule a conversation about donating. You show people how important your conversation with them is to you by inviting them to set aside time to talk.
6. Right before the conversation, remind yourself why you're doing the initiation, what you're excited about, and what you're going to request from this person or organization. Be excited but unattached to the results.
7. Share your feelings (excitement, gratitude, even nervousness) for meeting with this person or group. Share what you are doing, your intention for doing it, and benefits you anticipate to yourself and others. Make a clear and specific ask. It's okay and encouraged to ask for more than you think they will give you. People will give the amount that's right for them.
8. Whatever the outcome, it is essential that you thank the person or group. Invite them to your homecoming ceremony (this ceremony is often 2 weeks after your return date on a Saturday).
9. If they give you money, put it in a safe place dedicated only to those monies.
10. Celebrate!

Other fundraising possibilities: Loans; temporary work offerings from family, friends, or community (yard work, filing, data entry, child care); bake sales; car washings; yard sales; and your brilliant original idea!

HERE IS A SAMPLE LETTER FOR FUNDRAISING SUPPORT:

Here is a letter written from the perspective of a family fundraising for their rite of passage. Personalize the following letter template with your name, any personal details, and maybe your wording or style. You can also use it as inspiration for your own letter.

Dear Family & Friends,

We are excited to announce that youth's name will be a participant in Cascadia Quest's Youth Initiation this summer. This rite of passage will mark his/her/their transition from adolescence into adulthood. He/she/they will spend 9 days in the wilderness with skilled guides. Youth's name will continue to receive mentorship for 9 months following the Initiation.

We are reaching out to you for support. By offering a financial contribution, you will be supporting youth's name in a profound, life changing experience. Our goal is to raise \$financial amount. The fundraising will pay for the program costs as well any additional financial assistance necessary for ROP.

A key part of this rite of passage starts with a symbolic ceremony to cut cords with the birth parents, so youth's name can return from his journey as a young adult...no longer a child.

Please offer whatever amount comes from your heart. You can donate by going to [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and choosing "Send Money to Friends & Family" via your email address Also you can mail a check to Your name and address. You can pay Cash to any of youth's parents ([list here](#)).

Thank you for showing up for youth's name at this key time in his/her/their life!

Read for more Information:

<http://cascadiaquest.org/youth-rop>

<https://www.facebook.com/CascadiaQuest/>

<http://schooloflostborders.org/> (Rob Miller, Jenny Russell, Silvia Talavera & CQ are trained in this tradition)

With so much love & gratitude from youth's name & all of his/her/their parents,

NAME, Relationship

NAME, Relationship

Good luck! We hope that the journey of fundraising
and budgeting is a helpful step on the path towards adulthood.