



Scholarships



“Making Dreams Come True with Teamwork”

#building a national championship team together

In 2012, Coach Ryan and his those representing the ever-faithful advisory committee initiated a program to help deserving athletes, and their families with travel expenses to attend National level AAU and USATF events.

Today, our great organization is supported by over 350 business entities, several grant programs, 3 different employees giving philanthropy initiatives, the businesses of the Ryan family, and Michael and Gabriella’s Holy Orthodox Church. The giving and donations fluctuate with the economy and the need but averages around 120-140,000 dollars per year. These funds are then transferred to the scholarship and account and budgeted according to advisory committee for proper to distribution to the kids to help with travel expenses.

Oftentimes, perspective parent or coaches do not contemplate the many expenses associated with taking a large group of 100-150+ across the country to a national event, so even though a youth athletic team might have good coaches, and very talented athletes, unfortunately they never attend and complete at these races. The reason they do not attend is because of lack of funding. So, at KCXC elite we take our scholarship program very seriously and are very careful about how we allocate funds, not only to maximize participation for the current season, but to ensure there is an adequate carryover for the following season so that we can keep the dream alive for the next generation.

One major safeguard, that was put into effect years ago was what was called minimum fundraising goal (as noted by a thermometer symbol on our website that keeps track of how the athletes are doing for that season). If that goal is not achieved, the scholarship funds will NOT be released. This develops a culture of cooperation within the members of the team to both help each other out but enlightens our current members to be sensitive to subsequent generation or group. Thus, the policy lessens the inclination to just think of

oneself or group or family, as opposed to thinking of the community both in present tense and future reality.

Secondly, our leaders have attempted to structure the scholarship program based on participation and faithfulness, giving more to those who represent that ideal and less to those who commit less. With this viewpoint, we can ensure that those serious about both the success of the team and the scholarship fund get rewarded appropriately. We also protect the integrity of the program, and its survival.

Over the last 14 years, the scholarship funds have helped in sending over 700 different athletes to 26 different national events, notwithstanding the qualifiers and regional which have their own challenges and expenses.

In summary, the KCXC elite scholarship fund is the backbone of our great organization, because without the support of numerous volunteers, business sponsors, philanthropy grants and programs, as well as coaches, parents and athletes tirelessly fundraising much of the fruit of our labors would never be experienced, and in a sense a lot of hard-working athletes would be left behind. If you decide to join our track family, we challenge you to be engaged, and to see the big picture because with everyone's support the scholarship fund will continue to exist and continue to help young athletes' dreams to come true.