

# **CAA Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship Application**

## **Background:**

The Choctaw Alumni Association (CAA) has established the ***Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Emphasis*** to honor the memory of one of Choctaw High School's (CHS) most revered and respected faculty members.

- Mrs. Shaw taught mathematics and served as a sponsor of many CHS extracurricular activities during her 19-year tenure at CHS spanning the late 1940s through the 1960s. She then taught for another 18 years in the Harrah Public Schools.
- Her mastery of subject matter, impeccable attire and demeanor, classroom command and expectations, and a genuine concern for her students (both during and following their high school years) made a lasting impact on their lives.
- Following her retirement, Mrs. Shaw maintained close relationships with many of her former students. Their admiration and endearing/enduring respect for her was consistently illustrated by her open invitation to attend their regular class gatherings and reunions - which she faithfully did. She also collaborated with other CHS Alumni in preserving the memory of deceased CHS alumni, administration, faculty, and support staff through constant research of newspapers and other public records, making copies thereof, and maintaining an extensive/elaborate alumni memory book.
- CHS Alumni who were privileged to be under Mrs. Shaw's tutelage and to subsequently interact with her in later years have described her as: wise; humble; dedicated; diligent; disciplined; focused; reliable; attentive to detail; sensitive and responsive to the learning challenges/needs of all students regardless of academic capability/performance; articulate; approachable; excellent communicator; master teacher; elegant; carried herself with dignity and distinction; committed to learning; commanded and received respect; supportive of all activities outside the classroom that enhanced student development; beacon of honesty and integrity.

**Scholarship Amount:** \$2,000

**Scholarship Type:** Annual (started in Spring 2022)

## **Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:**

- A graduating CHS Senior with plans to pursue a STEM-related career by majoring in corresponding field(s) of study at an accredited college, university, and/or vocational-technical school
- An individual exhibiting:
  - a GPA of 3.75 or better - reflective of a sincere commitment to learning
  - an attitude of respect for student peers, C-NP school administrators, faculty, and staff
  - the ability to work with others in the achievement of common goals
  - conduct that illustrates dependability, honesty, integrity, and concern for others
  - involvement/participation in activities outside the formal classroom environment (school-related extra-curricular; church; community; ... etc.)
  - overall characteristics that continue to honor the legacy of Mrs. Shaw and the mission of the CAA

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## **Scholarship Application Process Criteria:**

- **Scholarship applicants** will be required to:
  - research the history of the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District, the legacy of Mrs. Ruth E. Shaw, and the Choctaw Alumni Association;
  - attend a C-NP School District Board meeting;
  - complete the scholarship application form supplied by the C-NP School District;
  - provide written recommendation from C-NP faculty member(s);
  - include typewritten report (two page minimum) on their research, Board meeting attendance, and their plans for scholarship use as part of the scholarship application package;
  - submit the completed scholarship application package to the designated C-NP School District office no later than the deadline on the application form.

## **Scholarship Selection/Award Process:**

- **CHS administration/faculty representative(s)** - as designated by the C-NP School District Superintendent - shall:
  - incorporate the *Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Emphasis* criteria as outlined above
    - include this document in its entirety in the scholarship application package
    - refer applicants to the CAA website - [www.choctawalumni.org](http://www.choctawalumni.org) - for additional reference
  - advertise/communicate availability of the scholarship
  - accept applications in accordance with C-NP School District policies and CAA scholarship criteria as outlined herein
  - notify designated CAA scholarship point of contact of scholarship applications turned in.
- **The CAA scholarship committee shall:**
  - review applications, ensure compliance with scholarship criteria, and/or interview applicants as deemed appropriate
  - determine the applicant to whom the scholarship(s) will be awarded
    - financial and/or any subjective "need based" criteria shall **not** factor into award consideration
    - special consideration shall be given to performance in advanced STEM-related courses
  - notify the school representative of the scholarship recipients

## **Scholarship Presentation:**

- **The CAA** will work with the designated CHS administration/faculty representative(s) and/or C-NP School District leadership to arrange for formal presentation of the scholarship.
  - Scholarship presentation at a C-NP School District Board meeting is the preferable option.

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### **Scholarship Payment:**

- **The CAA** will make scholarship payment by check - made payable and mailed directly to the registrar/bursar at the accredited institution where the scholarship recipient is enrolled.
- **The scholarship recipient will:**
  - obtain the applicable payee information and mailing address of the registrar/bursar office to whom the scholarship payment shall be made
  - provide this payee information to the CAA via email to the Scholarship Chair
  - allow a minimum of four (4) weeks lead time for the CAA to make scholarship payment arrangements

## **CAA Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship Application Form**

The Choctaw Alumni Association (CAA) has established the ***Ruth Elaine Shaw Memorial Scholarship*** to honor the memory of Ms. Shaw and the legacy of Choctaw High School (CHS) alumni, faculty, and staff.

### **APPLICANT DATA:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **SCHOOL DATA:**

Name of High School Attended: ***Choctaw High School***

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College Student Will Be Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

College/Career Major: \_\_\_\_\_

**Research Paper:** Refer to the ***Scholarship Application Process Criteria*** section of the attached document.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO THE COUNSELING OFFICE BY 2:00 PM March 12, 2026.**

**SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS:** The scholarship committee has sole responsibility for selecting recipients based upon scholarship eligibility/selection criteria, report content, and GPA. Submission of this application confirms your agreement that decisions made by the scholarship committee are final.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*