



Rappahannock Area YMCA Swim Team (RAYS) Michael and Jennie M. Clesner Grant Program

****APPLICATION PERIOD: November 1st to December 31st****

We are excited to offer the Michael & Jennie M. Clesner Grant program. The Clesner family has always been dedicated to ensuring children are able to participate in swimming, no matter their financial situation. The Clesner Grant is available to all RAYS athletes who have been **accepted into the Outreach Program**, who are **in good standing with the RAYS** and **swim in Age Group 1, Junior, or Senior** program groups. The intent of this program is to provide financial assistance to those swimmers with a financial need who consistently demonstrate a sincere commitment to maximizing their swimming potential.

Grant Purpose

The grant is for payment of program dues and meet fees. All grant funds will be applied as a credit directly to the swimmer's account.

Application Process

The Michael & Jennie M. Clesner Grant is applied for and awarded annually depending on the availability of funds set aside by the Board of Directors each year for this scholarship. To remove any possible bias from the process, an application number will be assigned to each applicant.

Non-associated RAYS members will choose the scholarship recipient without knowing the individual identity of any applicant.

Applicant requirements are as follows:

- The swimmer must provide a list of all extracurricular activities and community involvement
- The swimmer must provide a written recommendation by a current teacher
- The swimmer must provide a written recommendation by their practice group coach, which includes a statement of the swimmer's attendance at practices and meets, for the current season
- The swimmer must provide a 1-2 page personal essay

Completed applications are due by December 31st. Once the application period is closed, the applications will be processed by the RAYS and forwarded to the non-associated RAYS selection committee for selection of the recipient.

The RAYS bookkeeper will notify the recipient and inform the Board of Directors that a recipient has been chosen.

Current & Active Status Obligations by Grant Recipient

The grant recipient is expected to participate in weekly practice sessions and swim meets as outlined below. Inactive periods for longer than 1 week must be explained in writing to the Board of Directors. Inactivity for greater than 2 weeks, or unexplained inactive periods may be grounds for revoking the grant award as determined by the Board of Directors.

Swimmer must attend the following number of practices by group:

- Age Group 1: Participate a minimum of 4 times per week
- Juniors: Participate a minimum of 5 times per week
- Seniors: Participate a minimum of 5 times per week

In the event the swimmer will miss practice, the parent must inform the coach of the absence in writing and give the reason for missing.

Swimmers must attend a minimum of 1 swim meet per month (that a meet is available), which must include any meets specifically designated by the practice group or head coach, and any championship meets for which the swimmer qualifies.

Volunteer Obligation

The family of the grant recipient is required to complete volunteer requirements as stated in the team contract. Failure to fulfill volunteer requirements will be grounds for revoking the grant award as determined by the Board of Directors.

Misconduct

Misconduct by the swimmer or parents, as defined by the RAYS Codes of Conduct, is grounds for loss of the grant.

Scoring Criteria for the Grant

	Scoring Criteria	Michael & Jennie M. Clesner Grant Program	Possible Points
A	Extracurricular, Leadership, and/or Community Activities	Outside groups or committees, that is, school, athletic, church, or civic. Leadership Roles that you may hold in these groups or committees.	15
B	Teacher Recommendation	Current Teacher's Recommendation	10
C	Coach Recommendation	Practice Group Coach's Recommendation	10
D	Number of Years on the RAYS	One point for each year the swimmer has been a member of the RAYS for a maximum of 5 points.	5
E	Essay	Why this scholarship is important to you and how it will impact your life.	15
Total			55

Michael & Jennie M. Clesner Grant

To begin the application process, please email the team's bookkeeper at the below email address to request an application number. Your application number must be used on all application paperwork and recommendations instead of your name. Print out the following pages and complete the application package, including 2 letters of recommendation, a descriptive list of all extracurricular activities and community involvement, a 1 to 2 page essay, and the application cover page. Mail or scan and email the completed package to the bookkeeper at the following address by the application deadline.

RAYS

PO BOX 866

Stafford, Virginia 22555-0866

bookkeeper@swimrays.org

Application Package Cover Page -Michael & Jennie M. Clesner Grant

Applicant Number: _____

Application Due Date: _____

- Community Activities and Volunteerism List
- Teacher Recommendation
- Coach Recommendation
- Number of Years a RAYS member: _____
- Essay

I certify that the information contained in this application is factual and from the prescribed sources. All the information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that the enclosed essay is my own original work and expresses my personal outlook and opinion.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Send or Email Completed Application Package to:

RAYS
PO BOX 866
Stafford, Virginia 22555-0866
bookkeeper@swimrays.org

Community Activities and Volunteerism List

Applicant Number: _____

Please list any and all community and volunteer activities with a short synopsis of the activity, your involvement in the activity, any leadership positions held, and awards or recognition received. Please type your list and attach to this application page.

Teacher Recommendation

Applicant Number: _____

Please comment on the student's character and proven desire to improve their own performance while providing leadership in the classroom. Please ONLY use the applicant number listed above. Their name should not appear anywhere on the application. Please send your recommendation by mail to RAYS, P.O. Box 866, Stafford, VA 22555-0866 or by email to bookkeeper@swimrays.org.

Teacher Name: _____

Subject Taught to Applicant: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Practice Group Coach Recommendation

Applicant Number: _____

Please submit completed recommendation by mail to RAYS, P.O. Box 866, Stafford, VA 22555-0866 or by email to bookkeeper@swimrays.org.

	Yes	No
• Does the swimmer's attendance meet the required expectation for this scholarship (4x/week AG1, 5x/week Juniors & Seniors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is the swimmer receptive to direction and follows instruction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the swimmer demonstrate good sportsmanship?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the swimmer exemplify good team spirit and cheer/encourage teammates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the swimmer arrive prepared for practices and meets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is the swimmer striving to do their best and interested in improvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the swimmer participate in meets and relays, doing what is necessary for the success of self and team?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the swimmer attend the one meet per month requirement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

Athlete Essay

Applicant Number: _____

Please prepare a 1-2-page essay describing an important athlete, past or present, who has influenced your commitment to personal improvement and the pursuit of athletic excellence or “why is this swim grant important to me and how will it impact my life”. Your name and the names of any identifiable family members should not appear anywhere in your essay. Please type your essay in 12 pt. font, double spaced, on a separate page to attach to this application.
