

## Updated Bill Cushman Scholarship Guidelines 2026

The Bill Cushman Scholarship was established in 2012 in honor of Bill Cushman. Bill devoted his life to speed skating and the Midway Speedskating Club for more than 50 years. He was a charter member of the club and a competitive skater until 1960 (except for the two years he served in the US Army). Upon completing his competitive skating career, Bill served as a long-time club coach as well as coach and manager of several US World Speedskating teams; and was manager of the 1980, 1984, and 2002 US Olympic Speedskating teams. Bill served US Speedskating President from 1989-2000 and was a US Speedskating Board member from 1972-2002. He was inducted into the National Speedskating Hall of Fame in 1996, and was honored with the George Howie Award in 2010 for his outstanding contributions to the speed skating community.

A graduate of St. Paul Monroe High School (1952) and in the University of Minnesota (1956), Bill once said *"The basic goal of Midway is to give the youth of our area a program to develop into the best skaters each can be and provide a direct path to World and Olympic competitions, while having fun and completing their education. It can be done!"* This scholarship was developed to carry on Bill's belief that education is an integral part of a skater's development, and to assist Midway skaters and coaches with their education as they continue their competitive skating career past high school.

This scholarship is sponsored by the Bill Cushman Memorial Fund and the Midway Speedskating Club. Up to \$2000 Post-secondary scholarships may be awarded each year to current club members to assist with tuition, fees, books, and room and board. The Scholarship Committee is composed of 5 retired Midway Olympic skaters or parents.

**Prerequisites**, to be eligible for the Bill Cushman scholarship:

- o Current Member of Midway Speedskating Club
- o High school diploma
- o Registered for post-secondary education (must be able to provide transcript)
- o Training with a coach/program approved by Midway Speedskating Program Director, Coaching Staff and Board of Directors
- o Must have competed in the US Junior Championships (for ISU Jr Age athletes) and/or the US Sr Championships (for ISU Sr Age athletes) in the previous skating season.
- o Must have competed in the USS Am Cup racing series or an event at an equivalent or higher level in the previous skating season.
- o Full intention of competing in the upcoming speed skating season and attending identified competitions:
  - o \* US Championships (Jr and/or Sr)
  - o \* Am Cup Racing Series
  - o \* International Competitions (if qualified)

**IMPORTANT - The following criteria will be used by the Scholarship Committee to evaluate applications:**

- **Completeness of application sent in on time. Incomplete Applications will not be considered**
- **Academic achievements, goals**

- **Quality of essay**
- **Letters of reference**
- **Level of skating experience and competitions**
- **School and community service**
- **Current member of the Midway Speedskating Club**

Completed applications must be submitted via email to:

- Kim Nyquist – Bill Cushman Scholarship Committee Chair: [mknyquist@gmail.com](mailto:mknyquist@gmail.com)

Application Form: <http://midwayspeedskating.org/2018-bill-cushman-scholarship/>.

Application Deadline: **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**