

National Railway Historical Society
Student RailCamp Admissions Policy

The National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) sponsors RailCamp programs for teenage persons. These programs introduce high school age teenagers to the railway preservation movement. The RailCamp program acquaints participants with the history of railroads, introduces participants to historic preservation, provides information about careers in the railroad industry and/or preservation sites, and details railroad safety practices.

Definitions

Applicant – any person who makes application to attend a RailCamp program.

Parent – the person(s) who have the legal authority to make decisions about an Applicant's participation in a RailCamp program.

Chapter – any active Chapter of the NRHS.

Interested Entity – any museum, corporation, magazine publisher, or others who agrees to sponsor an Applicant at a RailCamp program.

General Public – any Applicant who applies for a RailCamp position without a relationship to a NRHS Chapter or Interested Entity.

Application

All individuals interested in participation in RailCamp must complete an application provided by the NRHS. The Applicant must complete the application in all respects or the NRHS will not consider the application.

Additionally, the Applicant's parent(s) must complete an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of the information on the application and granting permission for the NRHS to contact any references listed on the application.

The NRHS will accept RailCamp participants only after a complete review of the application. Individual Chapters or other Interested Entities may nominate a participant but the final decision concerning acceptance to the program rests with the NRHS.

Sponsorships

RailCamp participants may receive sponsorships from two sources. First, the NRHS provides a limited number of sponsorships to participants. The NRHS awards these sponsorships based on financial need and the Applicant's potential to use the skills taught in the RailCamp program. The number of sponsorships varies from year to year depending on the investment results and contributions from NRHS members and Chapters.

NRHS Chapters and other Interested Entities grant scholarships to students. The Chapters or Interested Entities grant the sponsorship on an individual basis using whatever criteria they deem appropriate. The RailCamp Applicant deals directly with the individual Chapter and Interested Entities. The NRHS has no control over the criteria for the award on these sponsorships or the application procedures these entities use. However, an Applicant nominated by a Chapter or Interested Entity must meet all the admissions criteria established by the NRHS.

The NRHS, at its sole discretion, may share the name of individual applicants with potential sponsors, and share the potential sources of sponsorships with individual Applicants.

Application Process

The NRHS sponsors the RailCamp program and the NRHS first considers requests from its member Chapters for positions in the RailCamp program. Entities which are interested in railway historical preservation and desire a position for a participant in the program get second consideration. Applications from individuals get third consideration. However, the NRHS will reserve a number of slots in each RailCamp session for individual Applicants.

The NRHS will notify all of its Chapters and other Interested Entities in writing of the schedule for the RailCamps and the availability of positions by the later of November 15 or ten days following the fall meeting of the NRHS Board of Directors. All Chapters and Interested Entities will have until January 15 (or the closest business day following January 15 if that day falls on a Saturday or Sunday) to reserve a position in a RailCamp program.

Once a position is reserved by a Chapter or Interested Entity, the NRHS will hold that position until April 15 (or the closest business day following April 15 if that day falls on a Saturday or Sunday) to give the Chapter time to provide the name of the camper and a completed application from the individual.

If a Chapter or Interested Entity fails to notify the NRHS of the name of a participant along with a completed application by April 15 (or the closest business day following April 15 if that day falls on a Saturday or Sunday), the NRHS will allocate that position reserved for the Chapter or Interested Entity to the positions available to public Applicants. Once placed in the pool for public Applicants, the Chapter or Interested Entity cannot reclaim the position unless there are open positions available at the time the Chapter or Interested Entity makes a request for a position.

The NRHS will begin accepting applications from the public on March 15 (or the closest business day following March 15 if that day falls on a Saturday or Sunday). The NRHS will return applications received prior to February 15 with directions to submit the application in timely fashion. All applications from the public shall include a deposit of \$250 paid by check or credit card authorization. The NRHS will refund this deposit only if NRHS fills all the RailCamp positions and cannot offer a position to the Applicant, or if the applicant later receives a scholarship to attend RailCamp.

Admissions Criteria

The NRHS will admit an Applicant based on the information the Applicant provides in the application, the affidavit submitted by the parent, and any information the NRHS obtains from the references the Applicant provides. Applicants are persons who will enter tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade the school year starting after the RailCamp program. The NRHS may, in its sole discretion, admit persons who have completed twelfth grade the school year prior to the RailCamp program or who will enter ninth grade the school year after the RailCamp program.

The NRHS does not discriminate against any Applicant in its admission process based on race, religious affiliation or lack thereof, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or handicapping condition. Membership in NRHS is not a prerequisite to attend RailCamp.

Notification

The NRHS will begin awarding positions in the RailCamp programs on April 15 (or the closest business day following April 15 if that day falls on a Saturday or Sunday). NRHS will award positions to Applicants sponsored by a Chapter, then to Applicants sponsored by an Interested Entity, and then to Applicants from the public.

Upon notification of an award of a position in the RailCamp Program, the Applicant has thirty (30) days to submit the balance of the tuition for the respective RailCamp program. If an Applicant fails to meet this requirement, the NRHS may award the position to another Interested Applicant.

NRHS Scholarships

The NRHS will accept applications for scholarship assistance when the Applicant submits an application. An application for scholarship assistance will be part of the application for RailCamp. The NRHS will award scholarships beginning on April 15 or as soon thereafter as possible.

If an Applicant for a scholarship receives a full tuition sponsorship and has made a deposit for RailCamp, the NRHS will refund the deposit to the Applicant.

Applicants who receive scholarship assistance from a Chapter or Interested Entity are not eligible for scholarships from the NRHS.

Refunds

If the NRHS accepts an Applicant for RailCamp and is unable to attend due to a family emergency, the NRHS will refund the tuition the Applicant paid upon submission of requested documentation. Family emergency is defined as a sudden and serious illness of the Applicant or the death of an Applicant's near relative (father, mother, brother, sister, grandparent).

In the event the NRHS or a host entity cancels a session of RailCamp, or the NRHS or a host entity reschedules the session and the Applicant can no longer attend, the NRHS will refund any tuition paid by the Applicant.

Should an Applicant be prevented from attending a RailCamp program because of war, natural disaster, or some other emergency not involving the immediate family, the NRHS will refund any tuition paid by the Applicant.

In the event an Applicant accepted for RailCamp cannot attend a RailCamp program for a reason this policy does not anticipate, the NRHS, in its sole discretion, may review the circumstances and refund any tuition or portion thereof as it deems appropriate.