

ICON History

The Imperial Court of Nebraska was founded on July 15, 1980. One of the first organizations to benefit from ICON's fundraising was the Muscular Dystrophy Association. HIV/AIDS did not hit Omaha until around Reign 3. It was during this reign that Emperor Ken Dillard and Empress Toadie Lee Marvelous started raising money to combat the illness sweeping the community. Not long after, what we now know as the Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP) was born. During Reign 16, our Scholarship Fund was established. During Reign 25, ICON became a 501c3 non-profit foundation. As of Reign 36, all of our history and important documents are now housed at the UNO Criss Library's Queer Archives for many generations to learn how ICON has helped impact the State of Nebraska.

ICON Foundation Scholarship

Award Ceremony

Friday, June 5, 2026

6:30PM Meet and Greet

7:30PM Presentation

The Verdict Bar & Grill

1901 Harney Street

Omaha, NE 68102



ICON Foundation Scholarship
P.O. Box 3772
Omaha, NE 68103



ICON Foundation Scholarship Application 2026

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE
POSTMARKED BY**

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY

The Imperial Court of Nebraska Foundation Scholarship Fund was originally established in 1996 to provide scholarships for individuals who self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or as children of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender persons. The first scholarships were granted during Coronation 17 in 1997. Each year, there will be at least one scholarship awarded in each category in which there are applicants who meet established criteria. The total number and award amount of the scholarships will be determined by the Scholarship Committee based on the number of successful applicants and funds available for distribution. Equal consideration will be given to any program of post-high school education, including but not limited to college, technical, and trade schools. Recipients must send proof of enrollment in a program of higher education within 6 months of the announcement of the award to the ICON Foundation. Awarded scholarship money will be dispersed within thirty (30) days of receipt. Failure to send proof of enrollment in the allotted time will revert the monies to the Scholarship Fund. At the discretion of the Scholarship Committee, unclaimed money may be awarded to other applicants or held for future use.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants must:

1. Be a resident of Nebraska or Southwest Iowa.
2. Self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer, or as the biological, adopted, step, or foster child of a GLBTQ+ person.

Application Requirements

Applications must include the following:

1. Proof of Nebraska or Southwest Iowa residency.
2. A letter of acceptance from a higher learning institute.
3. A letter self-identifying as a member of the GLBTQ+ community OR the biological, adopted, step, or foster child of a member of the GLBTQ+ community.
4. A personal statement that includes personal history and description of any community service or involvement as well as a detailed plan describing your higher education goals.
5. Letters of recommendation from three (3) professional persons not related to you. At least one (1) of these letters must be from a person who self-identifies as a GLBTQ+ person.
6. A statement of financial need.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please verify you have all required documents before submitting your application.

Send completed applications to:
Imperial Court of Nebraska
P.O. Box 3772
Omaha, NE 68103

Applications must be postmarked by April 17, 2026.
Applications will not be accepted after this deadline.

Questions? E-mail us at
scholarship@imperialcourtofnebraska.org

APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I give permission for my name as indicated to be utilized in publications, social media, and in print.

____ Yes ____ No

I give permission for my photo as indicated to be utilized in publications, social media, and in print.

____ Yes ____ No

I will be attending the award ceremony on Friday, June 5, 2026 at The Verdict Bar & Grill, 1901 Harney Street, Omaha, NE 68102. Event starts at 6:30PM.

____ Yes ____ No

By signing below, I declare that the information I have furnished is truthful and correct. I also hereby acknowledge that I am a member of the GLBTQ+ community or that my parent(s) is/are of the GLBTQ+ community.

Signature

Date

Parent Signature (If applicant is under 18 years of age)