

As a child and young man, he suffered from back problems and after several operations was eventually diagnosed with syringomyelia in 1948. For the next 23 years, he suffered from the pain and crippling of this degenerative disorder until his death in 1971.

Robert A. Jones (no relationship) founded the Bobby Jones Open in 1979. It is an annual golf tournament in which the players must be named Bob, Robert or Roberta Jones to participate. Each of the “Bobs” has a nickname that helps to lessen the confusion, especially when checking into the hotel. At the end of the two-day tournament, the “Bobs” enjoy an awards banquet and generously bid on auction items to raise more funds. The Bobby Jones Open has raised over \$160,000 to be used for research, rehabilitation and other projects relating to syringomyelia.

The BJO founder, Robert A. Jones, has served as a distinguished member of the Board of Directors for the American Syringomyelia Alliance Project, Inc. since 1990. Funds from the BJO have been donated to ASAP for sponsorship of the annual conference, sponsorship of an 800 line, and more. The BJO also provides grants for durable medical equipment to ASAP members in financial need.

ASAP

The American Syringomyelia Alliance Project, Inc. (ASAP) is a not-for-profit, member supported organization chartered in

1988. ASAP is the result of the commitment and determination of its two founding members, Barbara and Don White, whose journey with syringomyelia began in 1983. Barbara was experiencing numbness in her left hand, headaches and other unexplained symptoms. After three weeks of hospitalization and testing, she was finally diagnosed with syringomyelia (SM). Their efforts to learn about the condition proved to them that very little was known about SM, and few physicians were even aware of the limited information that was available. Finding a physician who had treated more than a handful of patients was almost impossible. The frustrations they faced years ago mirror those of many SM patients even today.

ASAP has a two-fold mission: *To improve the lives of persons affected by Syringomyelia, Chiari Malformation and related disorders while we find the cure.* As many as 209,000 Americans, both adults and children, are affected with SM. Over the years, ASAP has continued to grow in size and stature. Its internationally recognized Medical Advisory Board guides the research and scientific goals. To date, ASAP has funded research grants totaling over \$300,000. ASAP provides educational information to patients and physicians and provides networking opportunities for peer support.

Applications are available from ASAP. If the student meets the above criteria, please contact ASAP at (903) 236-7079. Or, download the application from the ASAP website, www.ASAP.org.

The Bobby Jones Open Scholarship for Individuals with Syringomyelia or Chiari Malformation



903-236-7079
www.ASAP.org

The BJO Scholarship

Through the generosity of the Bobby Jones Open (BJO), college scholarships are available to people diagnosed with syringomyelia (SM) or chiari malformation (CM). Realizing people with these diagnoses may face financial as well as physical challenges, this scholarship is offered to assist in pursuing their educational goals.

Depending on funds, a total of \$5,000 in new scholarships is usually available per year. An applicant's financial need is considered as part of the selection process. Individual scholarship awards are \$1,000 for a full-time student and \$500 for a part-time student.

Scholarships may be renewed annually up to an aggregate total of \$4,000 per student, depending on available funding and the student's maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average. A transcript of academic progress and a request for renewal is required for consideration.

Selection Criteria

To be considered for a new scholarship, the applicant must:

- Provide medical certification of his/her diagnosis of SM or CM, or of his/her parent's diagnosis of SM or CM
- Submit the completed application form and essay on a topic dealing with the diagnosis (topics are provided on the application)

- Provide financial information to determine need
- Use funds for post-secondary education at an eligible school (eligibility as defined for Title IV funding of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended; this generally includes any school that receives federal student aid programs)
- Belong to the American Syringomyelia Alliance Project (ASAP)

Other Guidelines

The new applicant may be:

- In any curriculum of study leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree or certificate program at an eligible school
- At any grade level in the post-secondary academic program
- Any age
- Considered even if multiple individuals from within one family are applying as long as the above selection criteria are met.

A previous recipient may apply and be considered for scholarship renewal for either undergraduate or graduate study as long as (s)he has not received up to the aggregate total of \$4,000, meets renewal requirements, and funds are available.

Timetable

New Applicants:

- January 15 - May 15: Application period
- May 15 - May 31: Application review
- May 31 - June 15: Notification period
- By August 31: Check distribution

Renewal Applicants:

- May 15 - June 15: Application period
- June 15 - June 30: Application review
- June 30 - July 15: Notification period
- By August 31: Check distribution

Selection Process

To assure fairness in the ranking of the applicants, the BJO has chosen College Foundation, Inc. (CFI) to review all applications. CFI is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to helping students achieve their college goals through information and financial aid. For more information about CFI, visit their website, www.CFNC.org.

Applications will be submitted directly to College Foundation, Inc. (CFI) at the address on the application. They will be reviewed by CFI and recipients recommended based on the above criteria.

The Bobby Jones Open

Robert Tyre Jones, Jr., born in 1902, is known as the greatest amateur golfer ever. Though essentially a weekend golfer, in 1930 he won the U.S. Open, the British Open, the British Amateur and the U.S. Amateur. This became known as the Grand Slam and no other golfer has ever achieved this feat. Bobby Jones retired from competitive golf at the age of 28 and focused on his law career, as well as developing Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters Tournament.