

The University of Oklahoma



Application Contact

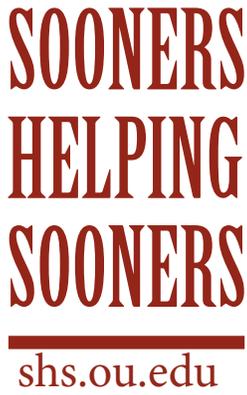
Katie Carter, Co-Chair
Kc621@ou.edu
918-607-3758

Advisor Contact

Kristen Partridge, Advisor
Kpartridge@ou.edu
405-325-3163

University Official

Carmen Bao, Associate Director
Cbao@ou.edu
405-325-3163



Sooners Helping Sooners: Application Essay for Generous U, March 2015

About

Sooners Helping Sooners (SHS) is a student organization at the University of Oklahoma. The purpose of SHS is to fundraise yearly to be a monetary support system for OU students when they experience financial burdens outside of their control. Our campaign is to educate the student body about our mission and empower OU students to donate in support of their fellow Sooners in times of need. Students are able to apply or be nominated for a financial grant online and are then selected through a decision board.

Budget

Expenses	Amount
Printing for advertising	\$300
T-Shirts and Promo items	\$2,000
Facility Rentals	\$200
Food for events	\$500
Co-Program Campus Events	\$1,500
Total Expenses	(\$4,500)
Revenues	Amount
Campus Donations	-----
Balance	(\$4,500)

Philanthropy & Our Mission

Unexpected financial hardships are possible as a college student, just as with any stage of life. Unfortunately, more often than not, students do not have the resources to handle such circumstances. However, they belong to a student body of thousands who have dealt with hardships of their own. SHS's role is to provide our student body with the ability to help and be helped in times of need. Through our continual fundraising efforts, we are able to provide students in need with immediate financial support within a matter of days.

Our ability to help fellow students is a direct reflection of the generosity of the student body. It is our mission to create a philanthropic mindset by emphasizing the importance of each student's contribution. While our individual monetary grants are beneficial to students in their time of need, we believe that the development of a truly altruistic atmosphere at the University of Oklahoma is invaluable and will last for years to come.

Impact & Increase

By providing emergency funds to students in need, SHS becomes a bright point in detrimental times for OU students. Over the past few semesters, the SHS executive team has been honored to hear touching stories from student award recipients. The meaningful impact is evident in these stories. It has been wonderful to hear how much SHS means to students and how each student's story is unique. SHS is excited to see our impact increase in various ways. Through multiple fundraising campaigns and other events used to give back to the general student body, SHS is able to increase the number of students involved with philanthropy at OU. It is our hope that by giving back to students, more will feel compelled to give and help their fellow Sooners. We have seen this tremendous growth through rising amounts of student donations and increased popularity on social media.

Management

SHS has two faculty advisors and an executive board consisting of two co-chairs, three directors and 18 general members. The faculty advisors review transactions and work with the executive committee to approve student grants. The co-chairs are responsible for overseeing the organization, maintaining a relationship with the university and planning all executive committee events. Fundraising, business and public relations each have their own respective director. The fundraising team plans events through the year and pairs with other student organizations, the business team handles financial transactions and reaches out to local businesses for collaboration efforts and the public relations team engages with the student body through social media, traditional print outlets and our website, shs.ou.edu.

The Prize

Receiving this grant would empower SHS to award students who are facing financial need due to unforeseen, tragic circumstances. As a group, we believe that a campus organization awarding financial scholarships has the ability to inspire the student body to give time and financially to support one another. No one knows when tragedy will hit, so it is imperative to always stand by one another. This is the culture SHS cultivates with every award given and each donation received from OU students. The first half of the grant would be used to award up to five students. With the other half of the grant, SHS will execute fundraising events. We hope to kick-start events that will become annual tradition and bring continuous donations. With this grant, we would purchase promotional materials and fun, interactive tools to have at our events to get people inspired to promote philanthropy at our university. Ultimately, we want to purchase materials for events that inspire others to give to and help their peers. With your help, we will continue to create a powerful movement that will change the culture at the University of Oklahoma.