

Brother Steve Banjak lived his whole life believing in and supporting the ideals of the Sokol movement founded by Dr. Miroslav Tyrš in the Czech Republic and established by Ivan Branislav Zoch in Slovakia. Brother Banjak was active in the gymnasium since he was introduced to Sokol when he was 14 years old; stopping only when his advanced age and health did not permit it. As President, he led our lodge for a period of 50 years to become one of the most successful lodges in the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA. Brother Banjak also held almost every office in District Svätopluk, including President. In 1958 he was President of the Committee responsible for the very successful XIII Slet held in Cleveland, Ohio. The lodge has unanimously voted to name this scholarship in his honor as a way to remember him for his many years of service to Sokol. The first recipient was announced at the 100th anniversary celebration of the lodge held at the Radisson Hotel on May 20, 2006.

1.

(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial)

2.

(Street Address) (City, State, Zip)

3.

4.

(Telephone Number) (Number of years a member of Sokol USA Farrell)

5.

(Email Address)

6.

(High School where you received your diploma) (Year Graduated)

7.

(Accepted to OR attending which College/University

8.

(Reference Name and position/relationship to you) (Reference Name and position/relationship to you)

*Requirements to complete application follow:*

Requirements for eligibility and the method used to rank applicants for the ***“Steve***

***Banjak Memorial Scholarship”*** are as follows:

Beginning with the academic year 2017-2018, the award will be up to $2,000; allocated in annual installments of $500 over a four year period, providing a grade point average of 2.5 (4.0 system) or above is maintained.

Should any one or more of the following requirements not be met the application shall be considered incomplete and therefore will be disqualified. A maximum of 10 points is possible.

1. A member in good standing of Sokol, USA in Farrell, PA for a minimum of three years.

2. High School diploma or equivalent.

*3.* Acceptance to an accredited school of higher education with degree programs. *A letter of acceptance to the school to which you plan to attend must accompany this application OR if you are already attending, an official transcript must accompany this application.*

*4.* Two letters of reference from non-related persons (at least one from a former teacher) attesting to the character and ability of the applicant. *The letters must accompany this application.* (2 points)

5. Evidence of “service” either to Sokol or the community at large. *A letter from an official or person supervising your activity must accompany this application.* (Up to 3 points)

6. An essay of one page written in your own hand, describing an activity or event in your life in which you strove to accomplish a task as close to perfection as possible. ***Please use the attached sheet to write your essay.*** (Up to 3 points)

7. Fully completed applications must be sent by U.S. Postal delivery to Bro. Tim Brandt, Sokol USA Farrell President; 1488 Hall Avenue; Sharon, PA 16146; telephone 724.866.8553.

DEADLINES:

First year applicants: no later than May 01 of each year. (2 points)

Renewal applicants: no later than July 01 of each year.

Renewal applicants need only to complete the first page of this application and send it by July 1 with an official transcript which includes the most current grades from the school currently being attended.

All scholarships will be awarded at the annual meeting of Sokol Farrell. First year recipients are requested to attend this meeting. All other recipients are also encouraged to attend this meeting.

Applicants are encouraged to also apply for the:

1. “Milan Getting Scholarship” which is granted by the National Office of Sokol USA; Box 189; 276 Prospect Street; East Orange, NJ 07019-0189. Phone: (908) 803 7465; Website: http://www.sokolusa.org/index\_ns.html

2. Various Scholarships granted by GBU Financial Life, the parent company of Sokol USA, which is located in Pittsburgh, PA. Toll Free: 1-800-765-4428; Website: http://www.gbu.org/

**Previous Recipients of the Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship are:**

2006 Oleksandra Banjak 2007 Oleksandra Banjak

2008 Katie Shebeck 2009 Lucia Murcko

2010 Robin Platte 2011 Bibiana Murcko

2012 Bibiana Murcko 2013 Daniel Konopski

Robin Platte 2014 Sarah Goda

2015 Daniel Konopski 2016 Kaitlyn Slezak

Sarah Goda Eric Konopski



Sokol philosophy is quite different from prevailing contemporary thought. Sokol philosophy is an expression of *democratic behaviors through self-discipline*, designed to guide individuals toward *goals* to which all people of good will are striving. It places great emphasis on *individual responsibility, individual performance and the individual’s quest for perfection in their lives*. Sokol believes, in this way each individual is responsible for the success of the whole of society rather than society being responsible for raising the individual.

Please describe an event in your life in which you strove to attain perfection in accomplishing a task and how this event, either directly or indirectly, contributed to the “greater good”.

**Signature and Date**