

RAILCAMP POLICY

PURPOSE OF RAILCAMP

RailCamp is an educational experience for young people who have an interest in railroads and railroading. It gives them an appreciation of what railroads have meant to the history, development and economy of our country and how revolutionary technical changes in modern railroading affect today's business. Occupations in the rail industry are unique and this opportunity introduces these young people to the motivation and commitment necessary to pursue a railroad career. The intent is to inspire them to become involved with the many aspects of railroading – as a hobby, volunteering, working for an historical museum or tourist operation or pursuing a career in the rail industry. It encourages them to engage in the future of railroads.

DEFINITIONS

Applicant – any person who makes an 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.

Sponsor – a chapter, any museum, corporation, publisher or interested entity agreeing to sponsor an Applicant at a RailCamp program.

Interested Entity – any sponsor other than an NRHS chapter

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 grant permission for the NRHS to contact any references listed on the application.

The NRHS will accept RailCamp Applicants after a complete review of the application. Chapters or other Interested Entities may nominate an Applicant, but the final decision concerning acceptance to the program rests with the NRHS.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

NRHS Chapters and Interested Entities may sponsor students. The Chapters or Interested Entities grant the sponsorship on an individual basis to applicants who meet all the admission criteria established by the NRHS. Chapters or Interested Entities may add criteria of their own so long as those criteria are non-discriminatory.

Final acceptance of a candidate is solely at the discretion of the RailCamp Committee. 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.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The NRHS will decide on an Applicant based on the information provided in the application, the affidavit submitted by the parent and any information the NRHS obtains from the references. 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 disability. Membership in NRHS is not a prerequisite to attend RailCamp.

RailCamp is a learning program requiring participation using operating railroads. Attendees need focused attention and the ability to follow instructions without oversight.

RailCamp normally is attended by persons, aged 14 – 18 who will enter ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth grade, or who have graduated from high school in the year of the camp.

Preference will be given to first time attendees, but RailCamp management, at its sole discretion, may admit an applicant who attended a previous RailCamp.

SCHEDULE

Applications will be available on the NRHS website January 1st. Applications may be submitted immediately. The final deadline for submission of applications is April 15th.

Chapters or Interested Entities wishing to sponsor a camper must notify the RailCamp Committee by January 15th of their intentions. The deadline for applications for sponsored campers is March 1st. If accepted, spots in either camp will be held for sponsored applicants. Applications received after that date will be taken in order received along with all other applications.

Acceptance is based on meeting all criteria and for the most part is on a “first come, first served” basis. No specific dates are given for acceptance. This process begins as soon as applications are approved which includes contacting all references. All applicants will be notified no later than April 30th.

NOTIFICATION and FINAL TUITION PAYMENT

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 Applicant.

REFUNDS

If an Applicant is accepted for RailCamp and he/she is unable to attend due to a family emergency, the NRHS will refund the tuition the Applicant paid upon submission of requested documentation.

In the event the NRHS cancels a session of RailCamp, 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 RailCamp management, in its sole discretion, may review the circumstances and refund any tuition or portion thereof as it deems appropriate.

BENEFITS

An attendee will receive a student NRHS membership good through the next calendar year.