

Randal Blankenship Tennis Scholarship Fund

Description:

Winston-Salem Tennis, Inc. is providing financial assistance grants to support youth and adults who face barriers to participating in beginner tennis programs. Youth (ages 18 and under) and Adults (ages 18 and over) must reside in Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Yadkin, Stokes or Surry Counties. Grant awards in 2024 will include assistance for the Try Tennis Program fee. Individual grant award amounts will be \$40. Applications will be considered throughout the year as Try Tennis programs are offered across the USTA Yadkin League Area (Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Yadkin, Stokes or Surry Counties). Grants will be considered based on barriers to participation and will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis, as grant funds allow.

Eligibility:

Open to youth (ages 18 and under) and adults (ages 18 and over) who reside in Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Yadkin, Stokes or Surry Counties and will be participating in a sanctioned Try Tennis program in those counties.

To Apply:

All applicants must complete the Jot form application found on the Winston-Salem Tennis website, www.wstennis.com.

About the Randal Blankenship Tennis Scholarship Fund:

Randal Clay Blankenship (1950-2023) was a Winston-Salem Tennis, Inc. past board president and a Lash-Southern Award recipient from the Winston-Salem Open for his years of volunteering and community service. Randal loved playing tennis and he captained many tennis teams over the years as part of the United States Tennis Association leagues. He had numerous North Carolina Tennis State Championships as well as Southern Sectional Tennis State Championships. In 2006, his 8.0 Mixed Doubles team won the National Tennis Championship title held in Puerto Rico. Randal volunteered at the Flow Invitation Tennis Tournaments as well as three Davis Cup events (2001, 2007 and 2008) held in Winston-Salem. Randal coordinated usher volunteers for the Winston-Salem Open ATP tournament from the first year of the tournament in 2011 until 2022. The first year Randal recruited 89 volunteers, and by the second year he had recruited 255 people to volunteer as part of his usher team.

Randal Blankenship passed away on August 21, 2023, from ALS. Randal touched the lives of many people with his true joy and passion for the game of tennis. The Randal Blankenship Tennis Scholarship Fund's purpose is to increase the number of people playing tennis in Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Rowan, Yadkin, Stokes or Surry Counties. In 2024, Winston-Salem Tennis, Inc. is seeking to expand the number of people playing tennis by removing barriers to the beginning tennis program, Try Tennis.

Try Tennis is an instructional program for beginners or those who are returning to the sport. The program includes a pathway for adults and juniors where each participant works with a tennis instructor to learn enough basic skills to play a beginner match. Participants can expect to learn basic strokes (forehand, backhand, overhead and volley), how to rally, how to play points, how scoring works, and tennis etiquette. Try Tennis helps people to get active and healthy, to meet new people and make new friends, and to learn a lifelong sport.