

Birankai North America Scholarships and Grants

Birankai North America is continuously working to maintain standards of excellence in teaching and curriculum development. Part of this involves making available training forums in which students and teachers can explore the BNA curriculum and certification requirements. Financial constraints, however, may hinder some BNA members from participating in these events.

The mission of the Scholarship and Grant Program is to enhance educational and training opportunities for dojos, instructors, and individual general members. BNA offers scholarships for our general membership and certified teachers. These are based on financial need and dedication to practice. Three types of grants, each with a specific purpose, are also available to help our member dojos.

Scholarships

1. **Scholarships for certified instructors:** Financial assistance is given to certified instructors attending Summer Camp or other national training events. Apply for Scholarship Online [here](#).
2. **Scholarships for general members:** We offer several scholarships every year for students who are 3rd kyu or above to attend Summer Camp. In addition, our [scholarship guide](#), which includes examples of successful scholarship strategies from Birankai North America dojos, offers chief instructors and dojos a wealth of ideas and tactics for helping students in need overcome the financial barriers to continuing their training.

Grants

BNA currently has three types of grants designed to give financial aid to dojos wishing to host seminars:

1. **General Seminar Grants** are designed as a safety net to allow dojos to make up for a loss from a seminar. If a dojo is pre-approved for this grant, they can be reimbursed for part or all of the financial loss resulting from a seminar. No funds are sent if a financial loss was not incurred. These grants are approved for a certain amount only, which limits the loss that can be reimbursed.
2. **Seminar Endowment Grants**, which are funded by the T.K. and Mitsuko Chiba Seminar Endowment, may be used to sponsor a seminar by paying for the cost of the teacher; i.e., the teaching fee (for a shihan or shidojin) and the instructor's travel and lodging expenses. These grants are not based on need, and the dojo receives the entire amount budgeted. This program is designed to support dojos by making seminars profitable.
3. Also funded by the T.K. and Mitsuko Chiba Seminar Endowment, **Community Outreach Seminar Grants** are intended to enable BNA dojos to hold an "open house" with free classes for anyone wishing to try out aikido. The open house can be organized in any reasonable way to encourage the local community to come and explore aikido. This not only supports our mission, but also helps dojos to expand and find new students.