



The ASF Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to serving communities across Alabama by mentoring youth in academics, athletics, healthy lifestyles, and good citizenship. Established in 1982 at the request of the United States Olympic Committee, the foundation also hosts the annual Alabama State Games, a multi-sport Olympic-style event that celebrates athletic achievement and community spirit.



ALABAMA STATE GAMES

The Alabama State Games was established in 1982 at the request of the United States Olympic Committee. What started as a grass-roots program for amateur athletes of all ages and abilities to experience Olympic-style traditions has grown into the largest annual multi-sport event in Alabama attracting more than 3,000 athletes annually to compete in 25+ sports. Alabama's Olympic weekend takes place annually the second weekend in June. The weekend starts with an hour-long Opening Ceremony televised on state-wide network television focused on our athletes and our patriotic values. After the parade of athletes, Opening Ceremony continues with the honoring of the country's flag, singing of the National Anthem, the oath to athletes, entrance of the torches by the athletes of the year, all culminating in the grand moment that the cauldron is lit and the host partners declare that The Games have begun. The next two days are dedicated to the sporting events where athletes compete for bronze, silver, and gold medals.



PROGRAMS



SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

The Scholarship Initiative has awarded to date more than \$400,000 in academic scholarships to Alabama athletes. When the Scholarship Initiative began in the early 2000s we accepted applications to award scholarships. What we learned is most top grade earners would receive multiple scholarships. We are proud of top grade earners and applaud their effort and discipline, however, we want to encourage students who may not be top grade earners that they too can lead successful lives. We felt that awarding scholarships to registered athletes who participated in the Opening Ceremony would give all grade earners an equal chance to an academic scholarship. A 5-year old swimmer can have an academic scholarship waiting when they graduate high school or a 62-year old grandfather can transfer their awarded scholarship to their grandchild. Once scholarship winners are accepted to a 2-year, 4-year college or university, or a trade school, the ASF Foundation will send their scholarship money directly to the program to be placed in the student's account to be used for tuition, books, or other scholastic needs.

ASF FOUNDATION



STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Student Ambassador Program is a scholarship program geared towards career minded high school students currently enrolled in 9th - 12th grades. Each August 1st - 31st we accept applications from high school students across Alabama. These high school students can be enrolled in any high school or homeschooled in a homeschool program. Student Ambassadors complete tasks over the course of 9 months that earn them points. At the end of the program the top point earners are awarded academic scholarships. Tasks are in the areas of networking, public speaking, marketing, social media, promotions, and fundraising. Scholarships range from \$500 - \$2,500. The top nine point earners are awarded an academic scholarship. Student Ambassadors are eligible to apply for the Student Ambassador program each year they are in high school thus developing and improving their leadership skills and increasing their chances of becoming a Student Ambassador scholarship winner.



GRIT 101 FOR TEENS

GRIT 101 For Teens is a mental health program for middle school and high school aged kids. Partnering with Edie Hand of Edie Hand Foundation, we have taken Edie's Women of True Grit Program and adapted it for teens. We use the metaphor of a pearl which is created in an oyster shell from a spec of grit or sand that undergoes years of irritation to develop into a beautiful gem, the pearl. Such can be with human lives. People undergo difficult situations which can break people or make them stronger. GRIT 101 For Teens is a program to aid teens during their life journey to navigate hard situations, remind them they are not alone, and help them persevere to see the beauty that their life can become. GRIT 101 For Teens guides teens on how to talk to themselves, how to manage hurt feelings, how to deal with anger, how to value themselves and others, and above all to never give up.

ADOPT AN ATHLETE

The Alabama State Games offers amateur athletes of all ages and abilities the opportunity to compete. It is our desire that all Alabamians who want to participate have no barrier to being able to compete, especially in the host cities. The ASF Foundation recognizes that cost may be a harder hurdle for some to participate. We would like to offer an opportunity for low-income youth to join us at the Alabama State Games and give all who desire the experience of an Olympic-like moment. You can help by donating to our Adopt an Athlete Program. For those wanting to be an adopted athlete call 334.440.8255 for how to qualify.

