



SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ENGLAND

OFFICIAL POSTING Jean Driscoll “DREAM BIG” Award 2023

The SBAGNE Board of Directors is now accepting applications for the Annual *Jean Driscoll Award*. The SBAGNE offers this **\$1000 award** as a tribute to Jean Driscoll, an eight-time Boston Marathon Champion and adult with Spina Bifida.

The award may be used for educational, developmental or assistive programs and needs and will be awarded to **an SBAGNE constituent, age 14 or older, with Spina Bifida who best demonstrates the character and determination of the scholarship’s namesake.**

Jean Driscoll, who was born with Spina Bifida and has used a wheelchair since her early teenage years, is an accomplished athlete and speaker known around the world.

She has enjoyed a life many people can only dream about experiencing. Jean won silver medals in the 1992 and 1996 Women’s 800 meter Wheelchair Exhibition Event at the Summer Olympic Games as well as 5 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze medals across 4 Summer Paralympic Games. She was also a world record holder in the 10,000-meter track event, 10K and marathon road racing distances. She has won the Boston Marathon eight times and was the first athlete in Boston's 120+ year history to achieve this feat. She even has a street named after her in Champaign, Illinois and a park pavilion named after her in Urbana, Illinois.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The *applicant or nominating source* must submit a completed application by **April 30, 2023** to the address indicated on the application.

1. The following must be include with the application.
 - a) A personal statement of at least two paragraphs, describing his or her goals in life, and his or her determination to “dream big.” If the application is submitted by someone other than the individual nominated a statement should discuss the dedication and determination of the applicant in achieving his or her stated goals.
 - b) The statement should include future educational pursuits or examples of camps or training courses taken to assist the individual in achieving his/her dreams.

- c) A statement of disability from physician, including address and telephone number of physician. If this information has been provided in previous years, **SBAGNE** has it on file and it is not required. A detailed medical history is not needed.
2. If the applicant is self-nominating he or she must submit a letter of recommendation from one person not related to the applicant by **April 30, 2023**. The letter should verify the dedication and determination of the applicant in achieving his or her stated goals. The letter must also include the phone number and address of the individual making the recommendation.
3. The award will be granted to a person who, like Jean Driscoll, is achieving his or her goals despite any limitations imposed by Spina Bifida. The recipient of the award shall be notified of their award in mid-June and a formal announcement will be made at an upcoming SBAGNE event.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. The Selection Committee shall review the applications in light of the following:
 - a) Provision of a complete application,
 - b) Provision of application and supporting documentation submitted in a timely manner,
 - c) In the manner of Jean Driscoll, evidence of achieving goals despite any limitations arising from Spina Bifida,
 - d) The Selection Committee will give preferential treatment to applicants who have never been selected for the award. Previous winners are not excluded from the award; however, extra consideration will be given to applicants who have never been selected.
2. Recipient will be selected by mid-June and should plan to attend a presentation at the SBAGNE Walk N Roll/Summer Picnic on **May 20 or May 21**.
3. A photograph of the recipient is requested (though not required) for the newsletter.
4. The recipient shall have the option of placing his or her personal statement in the SBAGNE newsletter.

APPLICATION

All provisions in the application are considered included in this Official Posting.

Submit completed Application by mail, fax or email to:

Mail: *Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England*
P.O. Box 681
Natick, MA 01760

Fax: 508-482-5301
Email: jbertschmann@SBAGreaterNE.org