

Foundation FAQs

1. What is the Sons of Norway Foundation?

The SONS OF NORWAY Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. This means that financial donations to the Foundation are income-tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

2. When was the Sons of Norway Foundation established?

The Sons of Norway Foundation was established in 1966.

3. What is the mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation?

The mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation is to celebrate Nordic culture and heritage through scholarships and grants to our members and communities.

4. How are the scholarships established?

The scholarships are established by individuals, lodges and districts who donate financial resources to the Sons of Norway Foundation to endow scholarships. Once the financial donation is made and the terms of the scholarship are agreed upon and the financial donation(s) is invested.

5. What is an 'endowed scholarship'?

An endowed scholarship is funded by financial resources donated for a charitable purpose, such as a scholarship fund. The financial resources are invested in an endowment fund and only the interest on these investments is used to fund the scholarship.

Once the endowment has been established, the donor no longer has any control or rights to the donated funds.

Those who donate their financial resources to an endowed scholarship do, however, determine the criteria for the scholarship.

6. Who is eligible to receive a Sons of Norway Foundation Scholarship

Applicants must be a current Sons of Norway member, or child or grandchild of a current Sons of Norway member. There are a few scholarships that accept applications from non-members.

7. Scholarships awarded 2021 - 2024

2021	29 scholarships awarded	\$111,799
2022	37 scholarships awarded	\$133,000
2023	38 scholarships awarded	\$160,000
2024	33 scholarships awarded	\$147,820

8. Where do I find information about Sons of Norway Foundation Scholarships?

Sons of Norway Foundation scholarship information can be found on www.sofn.com, the Sons of Norway website. Click on the "Foundation" tab and scroll down and click on "Scholarships".

9. What are Sons of Norway Foundation Grants?

There are six Sons of Norway Foundation Grants: 3 for Heritage and Culture and 3 for Humanitarian purposes.

10. Heritage and Culture grants

Heritage and Culture grants are for projects that promote and preserve the culture and heritage, and to "give lodges a boost" in their operating budget that they would not likely receive from other sources.

11. Humanitarian Fund grants

Humanitarian Fund grants are to establish educational programming and/or mentoring for children, also to provide financial support for members whose homes are significantly damaged and are deemed unlivable for a period of time due to a natural disaster and provide assistance to members experiencing severe financial hardship from extreme medical illness or personal injury.

To receive the natural disaster and medical Humanitarian Fund grants, the applicant must be a current Sons of Norway member.

12. Grants awarded 2021 - 2024

2021	28 grants awarded	\$38,958
2022	42 grants awarded	\$85,191
2023	39 grants awarded	\$67,310
2024	55 grants awarded	\$134,853

13. How are Sons of Norway Foundation Grants funded?

The Sons of Norway Foundation grants are funded through generous donations from our members and lodges. Donors may designate a restricted fund, such as the Humanitarian, or not designate and the donation is used for other grants.

14. Where do I find information about Sons of Norway Foundation Grants?

Sons of Norway Foundation grant information can be found on www.sofn.com, the Sons of Norway website. Click on "Foundation" and scroll down to and click on "Grants".

15. How is the Sons of Norway Foundation governed?

The Sons of Norway Foundation is governed by the Foundation Board of Governors whose terms, duties, and responsibilities are stated in their Bylaws. There are the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and at-large members. Because of its close relationship to the Sons of Norway, the International Chair can appoint members to the Foundation Board of Governors.

Members of the Foundation Board of Governors serve without pay; however, expenses are paid.

16. Where do I find information about Sons of Norway Foundation Board of Governors?

For more information, go to the Sons of Norway website and under "Foundation", click on "Oversight and Governance".

17. What are the assets of the Sons of Norway Foundation?

As of December 31, 2023 the assets of the Sons of Norway Foundation were \$11,686,356

18. What is the relationship between the Sons of Norway and Sons of Norway Foundation.

The Sons of Norway Fraternal Benefit Society is a 508(c)(3) insurance company that administers insurance and annuity products for our members. They also administer the Fraternal (heritage and culture) benefits, such as the *Viking Magazine*.

The Sons of Norway Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

The Sons of Norway Foundation is financially independent of the Sons of Norway Fraternal Benefit Society.

19. Where can I find more information about the Sons of Norway Foundation

Go to the Sons of Norway website: sofn.com and click on "Foundation".

20. How can I make a gift to the Sons of Norway Foundation?

The easiest way to make a gift is at sofn.com and click on "Donate" at the top of the screen to make a credit card gift. Other ways to give: you can mail in a check to 1455 W. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55408. To inquire about gifts of complex assets such as stock gifts please call 612-827-4655 or foundation@sofn.com. If you would like to remember us in your will, please use the following language: "___% to Sons of Norway Foundation, for the benefit of the unrestricted endowment fund" (or specific fund name).