



NovatoSpirit

Educational and Recreational Scholarships for kids
A program of KarmaSpirit, a 501c3 public charity

Description of NovatoSpirit

NovatoSpirit is a scholarship program of KarmaSpirit, a charitable organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. NovatoSpirit is dedicated to *creating conditions for physical and mental well-being*. Working with youth from families with financial needs, NovatoSpirit offers scholarships to a variety of well established specialized schools and training programs in Novato, Marin County. Our main goal is to provide recreational and educational opportunities to kids who would ordinarily be unable to participate, enabling them to improve their lives through their own efforts.

NovatoSpirit's scholarships are designed to enable kids to participate in Novato-based small-business schools/training programs that emphasize the following principles: physical fitness and health, self-discipline, self-restraint, patience, dedicated practice, and respect for other people/cultures/traditions. NovatoSpirit scholarships are available for use only at schools and training programs that offer an inclusive philosophy and provide equal access to all students.

NovatoSpirit's program philosophy is based on the principle of cause and effect, which suggests that *all actions have an impact on the world*. Each and every action is linked to other actions, past and present. All creatures—including humans—move within this mutually dependent set-up, shifting and swaying like water lilies in a rippling pond. Within the natural world, humans are particularly well positioned to move around freely, since they can choose which actions to initiate—actions that harm or actions that heal. Positive actions yield positive results and negative actions yield negative results. **NovatoSpirit enables kids to create positive results by combining physical exercise with positive mental effort.**

As stated above, NovatoSpirit is a program of KarmaSpirit, a public charity whose name refers to the concept of *karma* (*karmaphala*), a Sanskrit word that literally means *action*. NovatoSpirit is not affiliated with any religious organization and welcomes kids from a plurality of religious traditions. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability or age in the administration of NovatoSpirit scholarship program.

All contributions to NovatoSpirit/KarmaSpirit are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the tax law. Donations are welcome.

How to Apply for a NovatoSpirit Scholarship

NovatoSpirit scholarships are for training programs that are outside of public/private schools systems. Scholarship applications can be mailed to our office. The scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and each scholarship provides funding for participation in a recreational or educational school/training program for one full year, season, or class cycle. Participants that have demonstrated good attendance and behavior may apply for a renewal of their scholarship for up to 5 years, contingent upon available funding. A waiting list will be kept active for 2 years.

NovatoSpirit offers scholarships for the following activities:

- martial arts (such as karate, tai chi chuan, and tae kwon do)
- dance (such as ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, and other dance forms)
- soccer

Programs provided through approved Novato businesses may be eligible for NovatoSpirit scholarships. **(Please see attached list of activities.)**

Please Note: NovatoSpirit provides funding for instruction only. NovatoSpirit does not provide funding for any equipment, uniforms, shoes, or any other gear. Families are responsible for paying these fees.

Anyone living in Novato or attending Novato schools between the ages of 7 to 18 years may apply for a NovatoSpirit scholarship. Scholarships are awarded at the sole discretion of KarmaSpirit and NovatoSpirit and are subject to available funding. Awards are made on the basis of financial need and on well-written, complete applications. **(See last page for financial eligibility guidelines.)**

Interested applicants may apply by filling out a short application form and writing a 1-2 page essay describing themselves, their goals, and why they wish to participate in a school/training program selected by NovatoSpirit. They must also include a letter of recommendation from an adult with their application.

Scholarship applicants must choose to apply for one sport only per year. Scholarships are funded on the express conditions that (1) the applicant gains admission to the schools/training programs for which the scholarship is to be applied, and (2) the applicant and the applicant's parent or legal guardian have signed and returned to NovatoSpirit/KarmaSpirit a Liability Waiver (attached hereto). All scholarship recipients must abide by all the admission/dismissal procedures and rules of the schools/training programs in which they participate. Neither NovatoSpirit nor KarmaSpirit will be obligated to provide any assistance to applicants in the admission process. (Note: NovatoSpirit cannot be held liable for any accidents or mishaps that may occur while NovatoSpirit scholarship recipients are participating in various schools/training programs.)

At the end of each scholarship cycle, NovatoSpirit participants are required to submit a brief report reflecting upon their activities at their school/training program. They will write about their experiences, both positive and negative, and will give an honest assessment of their progress. In addition, they will write about the impact that the school/training program has had on their lives. **If they desire, they may conclude their report with a request for a renewal of their scholarship. In order to obtain a NovatoSpirit scholarship again, a NovatoSpirit participant must have already demonstrated good attendance and behavior. Renewals of NovatoSpirit scholarships are granted based on available funding.**

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

To all applicants: Please fill out the information below and collect one (1) letter of recommendation from an adult who knows you well (such as a teacher, a relative, or a family friend). Please have this person write about your character (in English), commenting about your talents and strengths and how you will benefit from the school/training program to which you are applying. Also, have this person comment about how your participation may be beneficial to others. Please allow your parents or another adult to help you fill out the application (in English) and collect the letter of recommendation (in English).

Note: Scholarship applicants must choose to apply for one sport only per year. Please see the attached list of activities, and choose one activity from this list.

I, _____, am interested in applying for a NovatoSpirit scholarship.
(Name of NovatoSpirit applicant)

I acknowledge that I am a resident of Novato and/or I am student at a Novato school, that I am between the ages of 7-18 years, and that I meet the scholarship eligibility requirements (i.e., financial need and a complete application). I agree to follow the rules, admission/dismissal policies, and etiquette of the school/training program in which I participate. I agree to attend all my classes—aiming for 100% attendance. My parents (or legal guardian) and I promise to arrange adequate transportation to and from all classes. I agree to notify NovatoSpirit at least thirty (30) days in advance if I plan to drop out. I understand that NovatoSpirit/KarmaSpirit may withdraw its funding at any time if I fail to comply with the above conditions. **My birthdate is** _____ **I attend** _____.
(Month, Day, Year of Birth) (Name of school in Novato)

My parents (or legal guardian) and I give permission to NovatoSpirit/KarmaSpirit and its agents to speak with my instructors about my attendance, progress, and behavior. I also understand that NovatoSpirit/KarmaSpirit cannot be held liable for any accidents or mishaps that may occur while I am participating in any schools/training programs. Accordingly, I and my parent (or legal guardian) have signed the attached Liability Waiver form.

Signature of Applicant Name Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian Name Date
(Required if applicant is under 18 years of age)

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Number Work Phone Number Cell Phone Number

To all NovatoSpirit applicants: Please answer the questions below *in English on a separate a 1-2 page essay* and include it with your application. (Parents or other adults can help with writing out the answers.)

- **Which activity in Novato do you wish to participate in? (Please see attached list of activities.)**
- **What is the cost of this program? (Please have your parents call the program and find out.)**
- **How long is the program (e.g., 2 weeks, 3 months, 9 months, 12 months) and when does it begin and end?**
- **Why do you wish to participate in this school/training program? How does it fall within NovatoSpirit’s guidelines? (Does it emphasize physical and mental well-being, physical fitness and health, self-discipline, self-restraint, patience, dedicated practice, and respect for other people/cultures/traditions?)**

You also need one (1) letter of recommendation is required from a teacher, a relative, or a family friend. Please list this person’s name, address, and phone number below. Please include the letter with this application.

Name and Address (Teacher, Relative, or Family Friend)

Phone Number

We also need proof of your family’s financial eligibility.

Please send us one of the following: a copy of your tax return from last year; or a copy of your healthcare policy with MediCal; or some other evidence that you are receiving some government assistance. We need this in order to proceed with the scholarship award. If we do not receive this, we regret that we cannot award anyone in your family with a NovatoSpirit Scholarship. Thank you for taking the time to complete this.

Please mail this form to the address below, plus:

- **your 1-2 page essay (in English)**
- **one letter of recommendation (in English)**
- **proof of financial eligibility (copy of tax return from last year; or copy of MediCal policy card; or other evidence)**
- **Liability Waiver (attached)**

Note: You must provide ALL of the above information if you want a NovatoSpirit Scholarship!

**NovatoSpirit Scholarship Program
c/o The UPS Store
936 7th Street, Suite B
PMB 236
Novato, CA 94945**

If you have any questions, please call the NovatoSpirit office at (415)892-5118. Thank you.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In order for NovatoSpirit/KarmaSpirit to process your application, you must sign this Liability Waiver after you and your parent/legal guardian have read and agreed to its terms. If you are under 18 years of age, your parent/legal guardian must also sign the Liability Waiver. Applications will not be processed if (1) not accompanied by a fully-signed Liability Waiver, or (2) if the Liability Waiver is altered in any manner.

In consideration for my participation in NovatoSpirit, a scholarship program of KarmaSpirit, a charitable organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the “NovatoSpirit Scholarship”), I agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless KarmaSpirit and its agents, employees, officers, directors, associates and affiliates (collectively, “Indemnitees”) from any and all actual or potential claims, proceedings, lawsuits, liabilities, damages, losses, fines, penalties, judgments, awards, costs and expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and costs and expenses of investigation) suffered or incurred by any Indemnatee resulting from, arising out of, or in any way connected with my receipt of the NovatoSpirit Scholarship or my participation in any recreational or educational programs funded partially or fully by the NovatoSpirit Scholarship.

I further understand and acknowledge that there are risks associated with my participation in the recreational or educational programs funded partially or fully by the NovatoSpirit Scholarship, and that such risks can include serious bodily injuries, death, and property damage. In consideration for my participation in the NovatoSpirit Scholarship, I hereby expressly assume all of the foregoing risks, and I agree to forever release, discharge and hold harmless all Indemnitees from and against any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, suits, claims and demands of any and every kind and nature whatsoever (whether based upon bodily injury, death or property damage), which I now have or which may hereafter arise out of or in connection with the NovatoSpirit Scholarship or my participation in any recreational or educational programs funded partially or fully by the NovatoSpirit Scholarship.

I further agree that KarmaSpirit and its agents may speak with my instructors about my attendance, progress and behavior and I release the Indemnitees from any liability therefor. I further agree that KarmaSpirit and its agents may reproduce for the public any written material that I submit, in the form of essays or letters, and I release the Indemnitees from any liability therefor.

I further agree that KarmaSpirit and its agents may terminate my NovatoSpirit Scholarship for any reason at any time and I release the Indemnitees from any liability therefor.

The terms of this Liability Waiver shall serve as a complete release and express assumption of risk for me, my parent(s)/legal guardian(s), heirs, assignees, administrators, executors and all members of my family. I have read and fully understand the provisions and legal consequences of this Liability Waiver, and I hereby agree to all of its terms and conditions.

I acknowledge that I am familiar with Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California which provides as follows:

**A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO
CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW**

OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

I expressly waive and relinquish any and all rights and benefits that I may have under, or which may be conferred upon me by, the provisions of California Civil Code Section 1542, and any other comparable law of any other state.

If any portion of this Liability Waiver is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full legal force and effect. This Liability Waiver is to be construed under California law.

I have read, understood, and voluntarily agree to be bound by each of the terms stated above.

Signature of NovatoSpirit Applicant _____ Date _____

Name of NovatoSpirit Applicant _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & CONSENT OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
(To be completed if participant is under 18 years of age)

I am the parent or legal guardian of _____, a minor under the age of 18 (the "Applicant"). On my behalf and on behalf of the Applicant, I have read and understood and I hereby acknowledge, consent and agree to all of the terms of the foregoing Liability Waiver.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian _____

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Applications can be mailed to us anytime.

Here is a list of programs eligible for NovatoSpirit Scholarships. Please call the instructors of these programs to learn about class meeting times. (You need to write down class meeting times in the essay part of your application.) Remember: You can sign up for one activity only. If you do well with your attendance and class behavior, you can renew your scholarship for another year, contingent upon NovatoSpirit's available funding.

Training Program	Instructor	Organization	Telephone
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MARTIAL ARTS

Ito's White Tiger (Year-round lessons in Kenpo Karate and Tai Chi)	Robert Ito	Ito's White Tiger 1119 Grant Ave., Novato 94945	897-0676
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Kyung Ki Tae Kwon Do (Year-round lessons in Tae Kwon Do)	Myong O	Kyung Ki Tae Kwon Do 1553 So. Novato Blvd., Unit C, Novato 94947	892-8151
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SOCCER

Indoor Soccer at Novato Youth Center (Season is from January-March) <u>All NovatoSpirit indoor soccer applications are due by Jan. 1</u>		Novato Youth Center Contact: Rose Jennings-Newhouse 680 Wilson Ave., Novato 94947	892-1643
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DANCE

Love2Dance Ballet, hip hop, jazz, urban dance (Dance lessons offered in 2 sessions per year, September-January and February-June)	Tara Broadwater	Love2Dance 874 Sweetser Ave., Novato 94945 www.love2dance.biz	898-3933
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NovatoSpirit Scholarship Eligibility Guidelines

Children are eligible for NovatoSpirit Scholarships if their families have annual household income levels that fall into the “extremely low income” categories listed below:

INCOME LIMIT SCHEDULE
MARIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM
Effective February 20, 2003

<u>Number of Persons in Household</u>	<u>Extremely Low Income</u>
1	\$23,750
2	\$27,150
3	\$30,550
4	\$33,950
5	\$36,650
6	\$39,350
7	\$42,050
8	\$44,800