

**William “Wild Bill” Sonner**  
**Presented by Seven Oaks Swim and Racquet Club and the Wild Bill 5K**  
**Scholarship Application**

Four \$1,000 scholarships awarded to area High School student athletes who have demonstrated the qualities of integrity, determination and intelligence.

**William “Wild Bill” Sonner** was more than a coach—he was a mentor, a leader, and a Raleigh icon for decades. The same fierce determination that made him an All-American athlete at **North Carolina State University** fueled his lifelong commitment to his community.

While swimming was his specialty, Wild Bill was equally known for his daily runs—rain or shine, summer heat or winter chill. His sometimes “tough” exterior belied a generous and compassionate heart. He was always the first to lend a hand, offer guidance, or simply do the right thing.

As a teammate, he provided direction, encouragement, and unwavering support to others, often lifting spirits with his humor and larger-than-life personality. Later in life, Bill devoted himself to mentoring young people and helping others find their path, believing deeply in the power of paying it forward.

Wild Bill Sonner’s legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the lessons he taught, and the community he so deeply loved.

**Criteria:**

- Have Participated, or involved in Swimming, Track or ROTC their Senior Year (player, manager, trainer, statistician, sports medicine student)
- Attend a Wake County School
- Minimum 3.0 GPA (unweighted) (Note: Unofficial transcript must be attached.)
- Have an acceptable discipline record
- Have an acceptable attendance record

- Must be moving onto some form of higher education following graduation
- Have Coach of sport support your application with recommendation in writing
- Complete all sections of the application—including describing your contribution to your team and why you should be considered a “Wild Bill”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_  
High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Where are you continuing your education following graduation? (Please supply a copy of your acceptance letter with this application.) \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Participation: (list sports, including year you participated in) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List Athletic Honors: (letters, team awards, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List Academic Honors: (academic awards/honors you have received—honor rolls, honor society, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

List any extracurricular activities, clubs, outside organizations you are a member of or participated in, any community service activities you have completed) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach in your own words, your contribution to your team/community and who you should be considered for the William “Wild Bill” Sonner Memorial Scholarship.

In addition, please ask a coach to send a short letter describing your participation and support of this application.

Completed applications, **with all necessary documents**, should be sent to Susan Bowers no later than May 15, 2026. Scholarship recipients will be notified by the end of June and recognized at our 2026 Wild Bill 5K on August 1. (Susan@helenefoundation.org, OR 13200 Strickland Road, Suite 114-308, Raleigh, 27613)