



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

United States Tennis Association
2012 Grants Program
Pancho Gonzalez Scholar-Athlete Grant

HONORING PANCHO GONZALEZ
PIONEER ~ CHAMPION ~ ICON
May 9, 1928 – July 3, 1995

Ricardo Alonso “Pancho” Gonzalez

When he was 12 years old, Pancho Gonzalez was given a 51-cent racquet by his mother. With it, Gonzalez taught himself to play by watching other players on the public courts at Exposition Park in Los Angeles, and he grew into one of the most talented and entertaining tennis players of his generation—a two-time U.S. Championships winner and a fan favorite on the professional tour throughout the 1950s and 60s.

Gonzalez’s parents, Manuel Antonio Gonzalez and Carmen Alire, migrated from the Mexican state of Chihuahua to the U.S. in the early 1900s. Gonzalez was born in Los Angeles, the eldest of seven children. Tennis legend Jack Kramer writes that “Gorgo was not the poor Mexican-American that people assumed. He didn’t come from a wealthy family, but from a stable middle-class background, probably a lot like mine. He had a great mother and there was always a warm feeling of family loyalty. If anything, he might have been spoiled as a kid. It’s a shame he suffered discrimination because of his Mexican heritage.” Gonzalez’s father worked as a house-painter and he, along with his six siblings, were raised in a working class neighborhood. In his autobiography, Gonzalez writes, “We had few luxuries at our house. Food wasn’t abundant but it was simple and filling, and we never went hungry. Our clothes were just clothes-inexpensive but clean.”

As the child of middle-class Hispanic parents, Gonzalez, who was called “Richard” by his friends and family, was well aware of the social prejudices of his day. He had a long scar across his left cheek that, according to his autobiography, some members of the mass media of the 1940s attributed to his being a Mexican-American Pachuco and hence involved in knife fights. This was one more slur that embittered Gonzalez toward the media in general. The scar was actually the result of a street accident that occurred when he was 7 years old; pushing a scooter too fast, he ran into a passing car and had his cheek cut by its door handle.

Early in his career, which spanned four decades, Gonzalez won back-to-back titles at the U.S. Championships in Forest Hills, N.Y., at the ages of 20 and 21. He also won two matches to help the U.S. defeat Australia to capture the 1949 Davis Cup title. His passion and intensity led to an illustrious career as the world No. 1 for an unequaled eight years. As a 40-year-old in 1968, he reached the semifinals at Roland Garros and the quarterfinals of the inaugural US Open. The following year, Gonzalez played Charlie Pasarell at Wimbledon in a five-hour match that spanned two days and led to the advent of the tie-break. Gonzalez also became the oldest player to ever win a professional tournament when he won the Des Moines Open just shy of his 44th birthday. Gonzalez was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame while still an active player in 1968.



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The objectives of the **Pancho Gonzalez Scholar-Athlete Grant** are to:

1. Honor the memory, life and achievements of the two-time U.S. Championships men's singles champion whose dedication to the sport of tennis brought together fans from all walks of life.
2. Reward players who work to excel in leading others on and off the court.
3. Widen the net of opportunities to young players of Hispanic/Latino heritage who aspire to excellence in competitive tennis.
4. Assure the careful nurturing of young players who may be candidates for USTA Player Development programs, and who may have the ability to achieve national and/or international rankings.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pancho Gonzalez Scholar-Athlete Grant

Grant funding is based on a number of factors including the success of the player in the previous year (e.g., end-of-the-year USTA rankings, performance in national and international tournaments, etc.) and recommendations/commentary about the individual's team spirit and leadership qualities. The grant funding is intended to be awarded to junior player(s) aspiring to achieve a national and/or international ranking. The recipient(s) should have a history of strong national tournament results. The recipient(s) must be actively training and competing in tournaments in the award year. The grant funding is for actual and necessary training expenses.*

GRANT REQUIREMENTS:

- **Applicant must be a United States Citizen.**
- Applicants must be of Hispanic/Latino origin as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.**
- Applicants must be currently enrolled in high school or home school with a curriculum equivalent to high school.
- Applicants must be ranked in the Top 200 at the USTA National level in his/her age category, or must have an ITF, ATP World Tour or Sony Ericsson WTA Tour ranking.
- The grade point average of the award recipient(s) must be a 3.0 or higher. An official copy of the high school transcript (or home school transcript) of the applicant(s) must be attached to the grant application.
- Two letters of recommendation must be attached to the grant application regarding the **leadership ability** of the applicant(s).
- A tentative 2012 tournament and training schedule for the applicant(s) must be attached to the grant application.
- A recent photograph of the applicant(s) must be attached to the grant application.
- A type-written essay containing 750 words or less, written by the applicant stating how they embody the tenacity, courage and leadership qualities demonstrated by Pancho Gonzalez, must be attached to the grant application.

Only TWO GRANTS ARE AWARDED per year in the amount of \$2,500 each (one male and one female) for actual and necessary training expenses.

Please mail all applications no later than December 31, 2011, to:

**The USTA Office of Diversity
70 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604**

Please include a fax number and/or e-mail address to assist us in the application process. E-mail addresses shall not be used for any other purpose unless we receive consent from the applicant or from his/her legal guardian.

Decisions will be announced in March 2011 via official letter and posted on the USTA website:
www.usta.com/USTA/Home/AboutUs/AwardsandGrants.aspx

*Actual and necessary training expenses include, but are not limited to, developmental training, coaching, facility usage, equipment, apparel, supplies, comprehensive health insurance, travel, room and board.

** The U.S. Census Bureau defines Hispanic or Latino as "a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race."



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USTA 2012 PANCHO GONZALEZ SCHOLAR-ATHLETE GRANT

CONFIDENTIAL (to be completed by parents if under 18)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Total Dollar Amount Spent on Tennis in 2011: \$ _____

E-mail Address*: _____ Number of USTA National Tournaments Played in 2011 _____

Date of Birth: _____ (MM/DD/YY) USTA Sectional Association: _____

Current Grade Point Average: _____ Male/Female (Circle One) Race/Ethnicity: _____ (Please fill in the blank)

Jr. Singles Ranking: 2011 Final National Ranking/Standing: _____ Age Group: _____

2011 Final ITF Ranking/Standing: _____ Age Group: _____

ATP/ WTA: 2011 Current Ranking: _____ (as of what date?) _____

Parent/Legal Guardian: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Occupation: _____

Work Phone: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian #2: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Occupation: _____

Work Phone: _____

Personal Coach (if any): _____ Academy: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ Other: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Do you presently receive financial assistance for tennis from any other source, other than parents?
_____ Yes (if yes, please explain) _____ No

Parent/Legal Guardian'(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Player's Signature: _____ Date: _____

* E-mail address(s) shall only be used for Pancho Gonzalez Grant application processing.



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I. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED:

1. Please provide the name(s) of the coach(es) and/or tennis program and/or program director with whom you are currently working. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

2. Please have your coach or program director describe the progress you have made since beginning your tennis participation with him or her. (Attach a separate document if necessary.)

3. Please describe your training regimen, including: hours of practice, drill, competitive play, hours and methods for conditioning, etc. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

4. Please attach a tentative tournament and training schedule for 2012.

5. **In a one-page typed essay containing 750 words or less, please tell the USTA in your own words why you feel you embody the ideals, determination and other qualities of Pancho Gonzalez.**



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For students attending public or private high school

II. ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED*:

1. Attach two (2) letters of recommendation commenting on your leadership ability and team spirit from any combination of the following:
 - a. High school principal;
 - b. High school guidance counselor;
 - c. Part-time job employer;
 - d. City, county or state-elected official;
 - e. Religious leader;
 - f. High school teacher of a core academic class (gym and art/music teachers are not included);
 - g. A non-relative over the age of 18 who has known you for four years or more (please specify relationship); and/or
 - h. Tennis instructor (no more than one letter accepted from instructors/coaches, so you must choose at least one more option from this list).
2. Attach a copy of your high school transcript. Transcript copies must include: school name, address, phone number, official letterhead or emblem of the school and information key defining school's grading system.

For students who are home schooled:

II. ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED*:

1. Attach two (2) letters of recommendation commenting on your leadership ability and team spirit from any combination of the following:
 - a. Part-time job employer;
 - b. City, county or state-elected official;
 - c. Religious leader;
 - d. Community leader (non-relative);
 - e. A non-relative over the age of 18 who has known you for four years or more (please specify relationship); and/or
 - f. Tennis instructor (no more than one letter accepted from instructors/coaches, so you must choose at least one more from this list).
2. Attach a copy of your home school transcript, including documentation of classes taken, certification of home school instructor, and any year-end evaluations of student performance.

***APPLICATIONS WITHOUT ANY OF THE REQUIRED ATTACHEMENTS SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED AND WILL NOT BE REVIEWED**