

2017 PANCHO GONZALEZ SCHOLAR-ATHLETE GRANT

May 9, 1928 – July 3, 1995

Pioneer, Champion, Icon

About 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.

2017 PANCHO GONZALEZ SCHOLAR-ATHLETE GRANT Objectives and Requirements

OBJECTIVES:

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 tennis players who work to excel in leading others on and off the court.
3. Widen the net of opportunities to young players who aspire to excellence in competitive tennis.
4. Assure the careful nurturing of tennis players who may be candidates for USTA Player Development Programs.
5. Demonstrate the USTA resolve and commitment to multicultural participation in tennis.

REQUIREMENTS:

- For consideration the player must be:
 1. A United States Citizen
 2. An Hispanic or Latino** male or female
 3. Between the ages of 12-18 years old.
- The applicant must have a **grade point average of 3.0** or higher
- One copy of **official high school transcript** (or home school transcript) is required.
- One Letter of Recommendation about the applicant's leadership ability is required.
- A recent photograph of the applicant is required.
- The applicant must submit a brief, type-written essay stating how they embody the tenacity, courage, and leadership qualities demonstrated by Pancho Gonzalez.

ONE GRANT WILL BE AWARDED per year in the amount of \$750, for training expenses*.

*Training expenses include, but are not limited to, developmental training, coaching, facility usage, equipment, apparel, supplies, travel and room/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."

**2017 PANCHO GONZALEZ SCHOLAR-ATHLETE GRANT
Application**

CONFIDENTIAL (To be completed by parents if under 18)

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____ **Age:** _____
Address: _____ **City:** _____ **ST:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Cell Phone :(_____) _____ **E-mail Address:** _____
Date of Birth: _____ (*MM/DD/YY*) **USTA Section:** _____
Current Grade Point Average: _____
Male _____ **Female** _____

Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino: _____

Identified by two or more races: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian #1: _____

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

Cell Phone :(_____) _____ **E-mail Address*:** _____

Parent/Legal Guardian #2: _____

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

Cell Phone :(_____) _____ **E-mail Address*:** _____

Personal Coach (if any): _____ **Academy:** _____

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

Cell Phone :(_____) _____ **E-mail Address*:** _____

Please note:

- Email 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 2017.

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Supporting Documents and Signature

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. A completed W-9 form with the **applicant's** current address and Social Security number must be included with the application.
2. A brief, type-written essay, explaining how you embody the tenacity, courage, and leadership qualities of Pancho Gonzalez.
3. A copy of your high school transcript. Transcript copies must include school, school's address, school's phone number, official letterhead or emblem of the school, information key defining school's grading system.
4. ONE (1) Letter of Recommendation commenting on your **leadership ability** from any of the following:
 - a. High school principal
 - b. High school guidance counselor
 - c. High school teacher of a core academic class (gym/ art/ music teachers are not included)
 - d. Part-time job employer
 - e. City, county, or state elected official
 - f. Religious leader
 - g. Community leader (non-relative)

***APPLICATIONS MISSING ANY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ATTACHMENTS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED AND WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**

SIGNATURE:

I hereby certify that the information submitted above is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that all information is subject to verification by the USTA Diversity & Inclusion Department as a condition of awarding funds.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Legal Guardian #1 Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Legal Guardian #2 Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please scan and email **ONE COPY** of the application along with the essay and supporting documents no later than **January 20, 2017** to:

Essay_G.p8twj pz83cv7db8m@u.box.com