



# THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AND COLLEGE HALL OF FAME



## History and Background

Founded in 1947 under the leadership of Grantland Rice, General Douglas MacArthur and Colonel Earl (Red) Blaik, The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame (NFF) exists as a non-profit educational organization dedicated to mobilizing the constructive forces of amateur football, at all levels, for the benefit of society as a whole.

Through a nationwide network of 119 chapters and 13,000 members, the NFF serves as a guardian and advocate of the game of amateur football and its unique ability to foster in youth and society the qualities of sportsmanship, leadership, teamwork, competitive zeal and academic excellence. By inspiration, recognition, financial support, and community involvement, the NFF strengthens participation and appreciation of amateur football, everywhere in America.

Over the years, the NFF has honored over 33,000 national and local scholar-athletes (awarding over \$9 million in scholarship grants), as well as thousands of local coaches, officials and administrators who have given themselves to the game; conducted thousands of clinics and events promoting and advancing football; and operated one of the nation's finest hall of fame facilities, the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.

## Programs and Services

To promote and develop scholarship, citizenship, and athletic achievement in America's young people, The NFF brings together all of the organized groups that play, coach, administer and support amateur football through the following programs:

**Annual Awards Dinners:** Conducted by each chapter, these events honor local scholar-athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and those who have implemented the lessons of the game in achieving success off the field. Honorees come primarily from the high school ranks, although some chapters recognize individuals from the college ranks. In addition, the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame holds its yearly dinner, where it inducts the annual Hall of Fame class and honors great Americans, including six U.S. Presidents who have attended the event.

**College Football Hall of Fame:** The Hall is the nation's premier sports museum and the repository for college football's great history. Located in South Bend, Indiana, this state-of-the-art facility puts you right in the middle of the game. Immortalizing the game's legendary figures and today's champions, a visit to this shrine will take you on an unforgettable journey from the game's beginnings to the colorful and exciting game we know today.

**Scholar-Athlete Awards:** The NFF grants nearly \$1 million each year to college and high school scholar-athletes. NFF local chapters collectively honor over 3,000 high school senior football players annually for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community. In addition, the National Football Foundation awards \$18,000 postgraduate scholarships to the top 15 senior college football players from all levels of play.

**Clinics/Seminars/Events:** NFF local chapters host a variety of events to promote the game and educate those who play and coach football at the youth and high school levels. Programs are targeted to reach a variety of audiences including parents, administrators, etc. Programs include Passing Leagues, Combines, College Nights, All-Star Games, Coaches Nights, Mentoring Programs and Aspiration Programs.

**Play It Smart:** A unique mentoring program, created by the NFF, which systematically uses football to improve the academic performance of young student-athletes from economically disadvantaged communities. With the aid of academic coaches, inner-city students develop personal and team goals and have access to the resources to meet them. The end game: A student who is better prepared for a job, for college, and for citizenship.

**NFL/NFF Coaching Academy:** Devised and developed with by the NFF and the National Football League, our goal is to evaluate the quality of coaching at the youth and high school levels across America. By creating an educational training program, with various levels of expertise, we will establish resources and standards, which football programs across the nation can use in recruiting, selecting and maintaining coaching staffs.

**The NFF Center For Youth Development Through Sport:** A collaborative effort with Springfield College in Massachusetts, The NFF Center conducts research and disseminates information on using sport participation as a vehicle to foster the personal, social, and academic development of youth. The NFF Center also plays an integral role in Play It Smart, training and supporting the program's academic coaches in the field.

**Bowl Championship Series Standings:** As an impartial arbiter, The National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame administers the Bowl Championship Series Standings by tabulating and releasing the weekly results to the public and the press.