



2018 Girls Inc. of the Berkshires Celebration Evening Scholarships

Guidelines

The purpose of the Girls Inc. of the Berkshires Scholarship Program is to make post-secondary education more accessible to young women by offsetting some costs.

Awards

- **\$10,000 in Scholarships will be awarded:**
 - Ruth P. Boraski Fund for Girls Inc. of the Berkshires (multiple scholarships totaling \$6,000)
 - Berkshire Community College Foundation (1 scholarship for \$1,000)
 - Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (1 scholarship for \$1,000)
 - Rotary Club of Pittsfield (1 scholarship for \$1,000)
 - Zonta Club of Berkshire County (1 scholarship for \$1,000)
- All scholarships are need based and income eligibility is required.
- Scholarships may be applied to direct educational expenses such as tuition, fees or books associated with a recipient's post-secondary education at any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university.
- Recipients of the scholarships will be invited to attend the Girls Inc. of the Berkshires' Celebration Evening May 3, 2018 at the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield.
- **Applicants for the Berkshire Community College Foundation and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts scholarships must be attending the respective college in Fall of 2018 to receive the scholarship. Applicants for the Rotary Club of Pittsfield Scholarship must reside in Pittsfield.**
- Awards are held in escrow until scholars begin post-secondary education and are paid upon receipt of education bills.

Eligibility

Scholarship applicants must meet all of the following guidelines for eligibility. Need-based and income eligibility required.

- Be a female Senior at a Berkshire County High School, plan to graduate and pursue higher education in the Fall of 2018.
- Have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.80 on a 4.00 scale at the time of application. A current transcript or grade report must be submitted to verify current, cumulative GPA.
- Applicants who are daughters of staff or board members ARE eligible to apply for these scholarships.
- **Applicants must have demonstrated extraordinary initiative, energy and creativity in community service or the application will not be considered.**

Applications should be postmarked or received electronically no later than March 23, 2018

Please mail to: Girls Inc. of the Berkshires, Scholarship Committee

165 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Contact: Pam Knisley at 413-442-5174x12 or PamK@BrighamCenter.org

This application can also be downloaded at: www.BrighamCenter.org



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Full Packet Contents for the Completed Application

Please note that all materials must be in the following order, numbered, on standard 8.5x11 white paper and bound together with a paper clip. Do not use a binder, notebook or other cover for your application. If submitting electronically, please send as a .pdf in the order below.

1. Cover Page
2. Application Form - you must list your 2017 Annual Household Income
3. Essay Question
4. Letter of Recommendation from a teacher, counselor, principal or Girls Inc. staff person - must be typewritten on letterhead.
5. Activities and Achievements Form
6. Official school transcript or verification of your grades - if the school uses a different grading scale, please have the school counselor translate the grading system to reflect the applicant's GPA on a 4.00 scale.
7. Current photo – Photos will be used in the Celebration Evening program for scholarship recipients. Quality black & white copies are accepted. Photo will not be returned.

ESSAY QUESTION

Clearly identify the Essay Question on your paper.

Your statement/essay should be double-spaced and should be no less than two but no more than four typewritten or printed pages in length. Please use a 12 point font and one inch margins on all sides. Include your name and your school's name at the top of every page and number all pages.

Essay Questions: How have you demonstrated extraordinary initiative, energy and creativity in community service (with a particular emphasis on service to disadvantaged members of the Berkshire community)? What are your future career goals and how do your experiences relate to them?

Tips for Preparation of the Essay Questions

- Write in your own voice.
- Be specific and draw upon examples from your own experience.
- Be sure to respond to all required questions.
- If applicable, reflect on your Girls Inc. experience.
- Use a font that is easy to read, such as Times New Roman, Arial or Courier.
- Have a person whose opinion you respect read over a draft of your essay.
- Revise the essay at least twice and proofread it carefully.

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Written by School Principal, Counselor, Teacher or Girls Inc. staff

No form is included for this purpose. Please submit your typewritten Recommendation Letter on letterhead stationery with your title and original signature at the end. The Recommendation Letter should NOT exceed ONE PAGE in length.

The following questions are provided as guidelines only. It is not necessary to answer every question:

1. How long have you known the applicant? Please describe breadth of membership.
2. **If applicable:** How has the applicant distinguished herself in her involvement with Girls Inc.?
3. In what ways have you seen the applicant grow during the time that you have known her?
4. Describe how the applicant is a positive role model for her peers and younger girls.
5. Please add any additional information that you think would be important in evaluating this applicant.
6. Describe school activities in which the applicant has participated and how she has made a positive contribution to the school.
7. In what ways do the applicant's achievements distinguish her from her peers?
Describe the applicant's capacity for academic success in post-secondary education.

OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT/GRADE REPORT

If your school transcript/grading report does not reflect a 4.00 grading scale, please request that a school staff member provide the applicant's GPA "translated" to the 4.00 GPA scale.

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Cover Page

Name: _____ Age: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s): _____

High School currently attending: _____

2017 Household Annual Income: \$ _____ # of household members: _____

SCHOLARSHIP PACKET CHECKLIST

PLEASE COMPLETE AFTER FOLLOWING APPLICATION DIRECTIONS:

- Cover Page (this form)
- Application Form
- Essay (2-4 pages in length, double spaced, typed)
- Recommendation (typed, one-page, on letterhead)
- Activities and Achievements Form
- Testing Information Form (to be completed by official of applicant's secondary school)
- Official CURRENT school transcript or verification of your grades **-or-**
- Check here if transcript is to be sent directly from your school to Girls Inc.
- Current photo (e.g., a school photo) photos will not be returned
- By checking here I certify that this work is entirely my own original work and is accurate**

_____/_____
Signature of Applicant Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

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Application Form

Applicant Name: _____

High School(s) which applicant has attended: _____

(If more than one school is listed, please indicate the school from which applicant will graduate.)

College/University for which scholarship is requested (include name, address, city, state):
Please note applicants for the BCC and MCLA scholarships MUST attend that institution in the Fall of 2018.

Date of application to school: _____

Have you been accepted? _____

Are you the first in your family to attend college? _____

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Testing Information

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICIAL OF APPLICANT'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

Please attach transcript of applicant's marks for all high school grades

Applicant entered (date): _____ Will graduate (date): _____

Applicant's Test Scores

College Board SAT:

Date Taken: _____ Reading: _____ Math: _____ Writing: _____

Date Taken: _____ Reading: _____ Math: _____ Writing: _____

Other Tests:

Test Name: _____ Date Taken: _____ Score: _____

Test Name: _____ Date Taken: _____ Score: _____

Describe course of study pursued by applicant at your school: _____

The applicant's most recent academic standing/GPA is _____. Her class rank is _____

in a class numbering _____ Rank covers period from _____ to _____

Signature of preparer: _____

Print name and title: _____

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Activities & Accomplishments Form

Please use this form to detail your extracurricular activities, volunteer and work experiences. Please include additional honors or achievements you would like considered. You may use another sheet of paper but please follow this template.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Freshman year:

Sophomore year:

Junior year:

Senior year:

Work Experience

Freshman year:

Sophomore year:

Junior year:

Senior year:

Volunteer Experience

Freshman year:

Sophomore year:

Junior year:

Senior year:

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Honors & Achievements

Freshman year:

Sophomore year:

Junior year:

Senior year:

Other

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