



2019 Girls Inc. of the Berkshires Celebration Evening Scholarship Application

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 or accredited post-secondary training program.
- Recipients of the scholarships will be invited to attend the Ruth P. Boraski Celebration Evening, Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield to receive recognition for their accomplishments.
- **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 by the Brigham Center upon receipt of education bills.

Eligibility

Scholarship applicants must meet all of the following guidelines for eligibility:

- Be a female Senior at a Berkshire County High School, plan to graduate and pursue higher education in the Fall of 2019.
- 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.
- Scholarships are need-based and household income is required.
- **Applicants must have demonstrated extraordinary initiative, energy and creativity in community service or the application will not be considered.**



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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 (no staples, please). Do not use a binder, notebook or other cover for your application. If submitting electronically, please send as a .pdf in the order below. Do not include application instructions in packet.

1. Application Form – Scholarships are need based, you must include your 2018 Annual Household Income
2. Activities and Achievements Form
3. Essay Questions
4. Letter of Recommendation(s) from a teacher, counselor, principal or Girls Inc. staff person - must be typewritten on letterhead (two-letter maximum)
5. Testing Information 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, press announcements and social media. The photo may also be used by the listed scholarship sponsors with notification. Quality black & white copies are accepted. Photo will not be returned.

Applications should be postmarked or received electronically no later than Friday, March 22, 2019

Please mail or deliver to:

Girls Inc. of the Berkshires, Scholarship Committee

165 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Or Email as PDF to:

pamk@brighamcenter.org – include “2019 Scholarship Application” in Subject Line

For Questions, please contact Pam Knisley at 413.442.5174 ext. 12 or pamk@brighamcenter.org

This application can also be downloaded at www.BrighamCenter.org/girls-inc/



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Girls Inc. of the Berkshires Scholarship Application

Name: _____ Age: _____
First Last Middle Initial

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s): _____

High School currently attending: _____

2018 Household Income: \$ _____ # of household members: _____

Are you the first in your family to attend college? Yes No

College/University or accredited Training Program you plan to attend (include name and address):

Please note applicants for the BCC and MCLA scholarships MUST attend that institution in the Fall of 2018.

School	Address	Have You Been Accepted (Yes/Not Yet)

*If you been accepted at multiple schools and are currently Undecided, please list your top three.

SCHOLARSHIP PACKET CHECKLIST

PLEASE USE THIS AS A GUIDE TO INSURE ALL MATERIALS ARE INCLUDED AND IN THE PROPER ORDER:

- ___ Application Form
- ___ Activities and Achievements Form
- ___ Essay (2-4 pages in length, double spaced, typed)
- ___ Recommendation (typed, one-page, on letterhead; do not submit more than two recommendations)
- ___ 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 Date

By signing this form, you allow the GLADYS ALLEN BRIGHAM COMMUNITY CENTER, Girls Inc. of the Berkshires, and its entities, to use your photograph and biographical information provided in ways deemed appropriate for media purposes, including the organization's social media. Your signature below affirms that the Brigham Center will not be held responsible for any adverse effects.

_____/_____
 Signature of Applicant Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicant is a minor) Date



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Testing Information

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

Please attach applicant's OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT/GRADE REPORT (If your school transcript/grading report does not reflect a 4.00 grading scale, please provide the applicant's GPA "translated" to the 4.00 GPA scale)

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 (based on a 4.0 scale 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

Activity	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior

Work Experience

Activity	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior

Volunteer Experience

Activity	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior



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Honors & Achievements

Activity	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior

Other (Please use this section if you need room to add other activities, work/volunteer experience, honors or other information you would like the Scholarship Committee to be aware of specific to this section that is not included in your essay questions (use only the space provided here).



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ESSAY QUESTIONS

Clearly identify as “Essay Questions” in your Packet and answer both questions.

Your statement/essay should be double-spaced and should be no less than two but no more than four typewritten/printed pages. Please use an easy to read font (Arial, Times New Roman), 12-point and one-inch margins on all sides.

Include your name and your school’s name in the header at the top of each page and number all pages.

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 both questions.
- If applicable, reflect on your Girls Inc. experience.
- Have a person whose opinion you respect read over a draft of your essay.
- Revise the essay at least twice and proofread it carefully.

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?

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

To Applicant: Do not submit more than two recommendations with your application. General recommendations are fine but recommendations that specifically address reasons why you should be recognized for a scholarship by Girls Inc. of the Berkshires are appreciated.

Recommendations should be written by a Teacher, Counselor, Girls Inc. staff or other non-related adult who can speak to your accomplishments.

TO PERSON COMPLETING RECOMMENDATION LETTER:

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

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 your relationship to applicant.
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?
8. Describe the applicant's capacity for academic success in post-secondary education.