



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, especially those in low to moderate income households.

Awards

- \$10,000 in Scholarships will be awarded:
 - Ruth P. Boraski Fund for Girls Inc. of the Berkshires (multiple scholarships)
 - Berkshire Community College Foundation (1 scholarship for \$1,000; recipient must attend BCC)
 - Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (1 scholarship for \$1,000; recipient must attend MCLA)
 - Rotary Club of Pittsfield (1 scholarship for \$1,000; recipient must be a Pittsfield resident)
 - Zonta Club of Berkshire County (1 scholarship for \$1,000)
- All scholarships are **need based** and reporting (year) household income is **required**.
- Scholarships may be applied to direct educational expenses such as tuition, fees, room and board or books associated with a recipient's post-secondary education at any accredited 2- or 4-year college, university or accredited post-secondary training program.
- Recipients of the scholarships and their families will receive an invitation to the Ruth P. Boraski Celebration Evening, (Date/Time) to receive recognition for their accomplishments. Recipients are strongly encouraged to attend.
- Awards are held in escrow until recipients begin post-secondary education and are paid by the Brigham Center upon receipt of education bills and a thank you note.

Eligibility

Scholarship applicants must meet all the following guidelines for eligibility:

- Be a college-bound female at a Berkshire County High School, who plans to graduate and pursue higher education or training in the Fall of (year).
- 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 the daughters or granddaughters of staff or of board members or senior girls who work for the Brigham Center/Girls Inc. ARE eligible and encouraged to apply for these scholarships.
- **Scholarships are need-based, verified household income is required.**

Additional Eligibility Requirements for specific scholarships:

- Applicants for the Ruth P. Boraski Fund for Girls Scholarship must demonstrate determination and perseverance in high school, be recommended by teachers and others as a student with promise. Preference is given to girls who have participated in any Girls Inc. of the Berkshires programs, on site or through outreach programs.
- Applicants for the Berkshire Community College Foundation and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts scholarships must attend the respective college in the Fall of 2023 to receive the scholarship.
- Applicants for the Rotary Club of Pittsfield Scholarship must reside in Pittsfield.

All 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. If submitting electronically, please send as a .pdf in the order below. ***Do NOT include application instructions in packet.***

1. Application Cover Page – Scholarships are need-based, you **must** include a copy of your FAFSA or a copy of your parent/guardians 2023 tax return.
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-recommendations maximum)
5. Testing Information/Class Rank Form completed by your school. SAT/ACT is not required but can be submitted.
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.

Instructions

Please:

- ▶ Submit application on standard 8.5x11 white paper
- ▶ Application should begin with “**Girls Inc. of the Berkshires Scholarship Application Cover Page**”
- ▶ **Do not include any instruction pages in your application**
- ▶ Bind with a paper clip **ONLY!**
- ▶ Do **NOT** use staples, binders, notebooks or other cover for your application

Applications should be postmarked or received electronically no later than Friday, March 22nd, 2024.

Please mail or deliver to:

Girls Inc. of the Berkshires, Scholarship Committee

165 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Or Email as PDF to:

abigaila@brighamcenter.org – include “2024 Scholarship Application” in Subject Line

For Questions, please contact Abby Allard at 413.442.5174 ext. 12 or abigaila@brighamcenter.org

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



Girls Inc. of the Berkshires Celebration Evening Scholarship Application

Girls Inc. of the Berkshires Scholarship Application Cover Page

Name: _____ Age: _____

First

Last

Middle Initial

Address: _____

Street

City

Zip

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s): _____

High School currently attending: _____

Have you attended Girls Inc. programs at the Brigham Center or other location? Yes No

If yes, which programs? _____

2023 Household Income: \$ _____ # of household members: _____

Are you the first in your family to attend college? Yes No | Expected Major? _____

Scholarship(s) you would like to be considered for: Ruth P. Boraski Scholarship BCC MCLA Rotary Club Zonta

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 2024.

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, use back for more space.

SCHOLARSHIP PACKET CHECKLIST

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

- ___ Application Cover Page
- ___ Copy of FAFSA or 2023 Tax Return
- ___ Activities and Achievements Form
- ___ Essay (2-4 pages in length, single-spaced, typed)
- ___ Recommendation (typed, one-page, on letterhead; do not submit more than two recommendations)
- ___ Testing Information/Class Rank 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.



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Signature of Applicant

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

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 an additional sheet of paper but please use this form.*

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 are not included in your essay responses.



**Girls Inc. of the Berkshires
Celebration Evening Scholarship Application**

Testing Information/Class Rank

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: SAT/ACT will not weigh against you if not taken.

College Board SAT:

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

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

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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ESSAY QUESTIONS

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

Your statement/essay should be single-spaced and should be 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.

Do NOT include this page in your application packet.

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 an emphasis on service to disadvantaged members of the Berkshire community)?

What are your future career goals and how do your experiences relate to them?

PS: Don’t include this sheet with your submitted application!!

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165 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

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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. Do NOT include this page in your application packet. We suggest that you pass this sheet on to the person/people you are asking for a recommendation, so they have a point of reference.

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.