



Mercury Foundation Scholarship | Rules, Requirements and Selection Process

Dear potential applicant, parents, and guardians:

We are proud to be able to offer assistance to students active with the Masonic youth organizations. To help potential applicants understand who is eligible and what factors are used in the selection process, below are a list of rules and requirements that we follow when making our selection.

ELIGIBILITY AND RULES

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The scholarship is open to all active members of a Masonic youth organization. The three currently recognized* organizations are: the Order of DeMolay (DeMolay International), the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and the International Order of Job's Daughters (Job's Daughters International).

All applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 21 before the start of the class or term for which they will be receiving the scholarship. For example, a student that applies for a scholarship to be used toward a fall college course can apply while still aged 15, as long as they turn 16 before the start of the class. One caveat to this age limit is that a student may use a scholarship for a class that they start while still 21, but will not finish until after their 22nd birthday.

The student must be taking college courses at an accredited college or university at the time or for the next school term that the scholarship is awarded. This can include high school students enrolled in college courses as part of an enhanced curriculum, as well as part-time or full-time traditional college students. Students taking online college courses are also eligible. This includes prerequisite classes required by your institution.

HOW WILL THE AWARD BE DISBURSED?

We are aware that going to college is expensive. Not only are there costs for tuition and books, but there are associated costs such as housing, gas, Internet, and cell phone bills. Unlike many scholarships, we do not require that the award be sent directly to your institution. We also do not set limitations on how you use the award. The award will be sent directly to you as a monetary gift in the form of a cashier's check, to be used in whatever way you need. If you use it for gas, groceries, and cell phone bills, we're happy to know that we still contributed to your college experience.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?

There will be a selection board convened each year to review all applications. Each member will score the application based on the answers given, and the numbers will be totaled for an overall score. In the case of ties, extra points will be granted based on years of activity and state or national offices held in your Masonic youth organization, the major that you are pursuing (teaching, medical, and STEM will be given a small preference), and the content of your letters of recommendation.

The selection process will begin on March 31 of each year, and the winners will be announced on May 25. Please ensure that you include a reliable contact telephone number, email address, or physical address for us to reach you with any questions or notifications.

OTHER INFORMATION

WHY MASONIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS?

The scholarship is intended to honor the past family members of the founders, as well as to recognize the contributions of Freemasons throughout history and around the world. For this reason, it is limited to applicants that are currently active in one of the Masonic youth organizations**. However, we strongly encourage all young men and women to look into these youth organizations. All are open to family members of Master Masons (children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins), and most are open to any child with a Masonic sponsor. If you don't know a Mason, contact your local chapter, assembly, or bethel, and they will work with you to make sure that any interested child is given an opportunity to join.

LINKS**

DeMolay International - demolay.org

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls - gorainbow.org

Job's Daughters International - jobsdaughtersinternational.org

DISCLAIMERS

*The organizations listed above are ones that we are familiar with and are active in our area (Texas and Oklahoma). We are aware of other organizations, notably in the state of New York. We would like to know more! If you are an adult leader of one of these organizations, please reach out to us at mercuryscholarship@gmail.com.

**The scholarship and Mercury Foundation is not affiliated in any official capacity with these organizations.