

# YOUNG WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

————— *of Austin* —————

**Young Leaders & Higher Education Scholarships  
2017-2018 Application**

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*Awarded by the*

**YOUNG WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOUNDATION**



## **ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:**

Founded in 1993, the Young Women's Alliance (YWA) is an organization of women that empowers its members to develop personally and professionally through educational programs and opportunities to lead, network, and serve.

The Young Women's Alliance Foundation (YWAF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by YWA in 1997. The Foundation empowers tomorrow's female leaders by awarding educational scholarships to girls and women and providing grants to the organizations that serve them, ultimately inspiring all women to give back to their community.

## **PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP:**

Each year, the Foundation awards the Young Leaders and Higher Education Scholarships to women who show commitment to community service and leadership by dedicating their personal time. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide tuition assistance to these women while they serve their community. Community service can mean an event, campaign, dedication of service, or other initiative taken by the recipient. We aim to have our scholarship recipients make a significant impact on the community. This year's award amount is \$2,000 per recipient. YWAF looks to support women who demonstrate exceptional leadership, academic achievement, and strong commitment to their community.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

Scholarship recipients are chosen based on four criteria:

- Commitment to community service (35%)
- Demonstrated leadership (30%)
- Academic achievement (20%)
- Financial need (15%)

Scholarships must be used for tuition assistance and will be paid directly to the recipient's university in either the fall of 2017 or spring of 2018. Recipients will select the semester in which the scholarship money will be used.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

### *Young Leaders*

To be eligible for a YWAF Young Leaders scholarship, the applicant must:

- Be a female under the age of 40;
- Attending an accredited university or college
- Show a strong commitment to community service and leadership;
- Not be a prior recipient of a YWAF scholarship.

### *Higher Education*

To be eligible for a YWAF Higher Education scholarship, the applicant must:

- Be a female under the age of 40;
- Have completed at least 60 undergraduate semester hours or be pursuing a graduate degree at a university or [accredited institution of higher learning](#) within Central Texas (Travis, Caldwell, Hays, Bastrop, and Williamson counties) during the semester the scholarship will be used;



- Show a strong commitment to community service and leadership;
- Not be a prior recipient of a YWAF scholarship.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Please submit the following through the Network for Good application, link found [here](#):

- Completed form
- 2 Recommendation letters
- Unofficial transcripts (for each institution attended)
- Short bio
- Resume
- Community service short essay
- Personal essay

***\*\*Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.***

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:**

A panel of judges will review all complete applications submitted by **March 15, 2017**. Applications must be submitted online via our [website](#) and be received by March 15, 2017 at **11:59 p.m. CST**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Competitive applicants will be selected for interviews with members of Young Women's Alliance. 2017 interviews will be held in late March. Scholarship recipients will be announced in early April. Though every effort will be made to adhere to this schedule, dates are subject to change. Applicants and/or recipients will be notified of any date changes in sufficient time.

### **IF SELECTED:**

- Recipients will be invited to attend the YWAF celebration event in the spring.
- YWA and YWAF reserve the right to use photographs and/or statements of scholarship recipients in promotional materials.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Visit our [YWA Website!](#)

You can also contact the Young Leaders or Higher Education Scholarship chair and the VP of Giving at [scholarships@youngwomensalliance.org](mailto:scholarships@youngwomensalliance.org)

### **RESOURCES**

- College costs in Texas are listed at [www.collegeforalltexas.com](http://www.collegeforalltexas.com). Click on "Get the Facts" and "College Costs".
- Information about the importance of scholarships and resources for completing a scholarship or admissions essay are available at [www.ownyourfuture.com](http://www.ownyourfuture.com).
- You should file your 2017-2018 FAFSA as early as possible in 2017 at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be included in your Student Aid Report (SAR). If you have not yet filed your FAFSA or have not yet received your SAR, complete the FAFSA4Caster at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) and use the information generated in that report to complete the application.



## DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

These documents will be attached at the bottom of the form found [here](#).

**2 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Two letters of recommendation from two individuals. Letters may not come from relatives.

**UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS:**

Attach unofficial transcripts for each previous high school, college, or university you have attended.

**SHORT BIO:**

In 100 words or less, please tell us about you, your current school, your major, interesting facts, how this scholarship will help you, and/or anything else that will help us know you better as an individual. Please write your bio in the third person. (Your bio should be in 12-point font, Arial or Times New Roman, double spaced, and fewer than 100 words.)

*Note: If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, this statement or a portion of it will be used on the Young Women's Alliance website. [Last year's scholarship recipient bios](#) are available on the YWA website for guidance.*

**RÉSUMÉ:**

Attach a one-page résumé highlighting your extracurricular and leadership involvement – as well as your volunteer work (including positions held and number of hours spent).

**COMMUNITY SERVICE SHORT ESSAY:**

In 200 words or less, please describe the organization(s) you've worked with for your community service hours over the last two (2) years and why you choose those particular organization(s). Also tell us about your passion and motivation for your community service. (Your short essay should be in 12-point font, Arial or Times New Roman, double spaced, and fewer than 200 words.)

*Note: Community service must be done as a volunteer or unpaid internship during the past two (2) years.*

**PERSONAL ESSAY:**

In 500 words or less, please include a personal statement about why you should be chosen to receive this scholarship. Information might include your motivation to get the degree you are pursuing, life experiences that have changed you, or anything else you believe the reviewing committee should know about you. (Your essay should be in 12-point font, Arial or Times New Roman, double spaced, and fewer than 500 words.)