

HOA Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question: How long will it take to complete the application?

Answer: If you have teachers who are willing to quickly complete letters of recommendation and you can write quickly, the application can potentially be completed in as little as a week. The sooner you get started, the sooner you will be finished.

Question: Do I have to have all my application materials ready to mail in at the same time?

Answer: No. In fact because the official transcript and letters of recommendation are coming from different sources it is not likely that all the application materials will be available to mail at the same time. It is suggested that you get started on this early, so that everyone has ample time to complete their portion of the application. Give your teachers/mentors the recommendation forms now, and make sure they are aware of the postmark deadline. Follow up with them to make sure that they have mailed the recommendation when they agreed.

Question: Can I pick up a transcript from my school?

Answer: Absolutely! As long as it is sealed by the school and remains unopened, your transcript will be accepted. If you wish to have a copy of your transcript for your personal records, you should request a separate copy from the school for that purpose.

Question: How do I know you have received all my materials.

Answer: Send an email to giveachildwings@gmail.com requesting confirmation of materials received.

Question: Do I have to complete all the essays for the application.

Answer: No. Read all of the questions and choose the one that interests you most. Use only one prompt for your essay.

Question: Can my parents complete a recommendation form for me?

Answer: No. Recommendation forms should be completed by teachers, advisors, coaches, or mentors that you feel can provide a favorable report about you. People who interact with you currently are preferred so that they can speak to how you are now. It would not be a good idea for example, to seek a recommendation from an elementary teacher whom you have had no interaction since you were ten years old.

Question: Can I email my application?

Answer: You may email your portion of the application to giveachildwings@gmail.com as long as it is time-stamped before midnight on July

1st. The remainder of your application package should be mailed to: Brock Hills HOA Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 1541, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

Question: If I have a question about the application, who may I ask?

Answer: Send your question to giveachildwings@gmail.com. We'll try and provide you with a response within one to two business days.

Question: My family will be out of town in the beginning of July for vacation. May I have an extension to complete my application?

Answer: Unfortunately, we are unable to provide extensions for applications. You may send all your materials in as early as the first week in April if you like. Just be sure to follow up with your recommendation writers to be sure they are aware of the deadline and commit to mailing them in time.

Question: If I am awarded the scholarship this year, do I have to pay it back?

Answer: No. It does not have to be paid back.

Question: Why do I have to provide a picture with the application packet?

Answer: So that the committee can place a face with the name. Your picture may also be used in an HOA newsletter announcing your award to the community.

Question: When will the award be announced?

Answer: Winners will be notified the first and second weeks of September. It is likely you will be away at school by then, so it is really important to provide accurate email and U.S. Postal Service (USPS) contact information.

Question: If I live in the neighborhood part-time am I still eligible to apply for the scholarship?

Answer: As long as you live in the Brock Hills community, and are immediate family or a ward of an HOA member in good standing, you fulfill the residential requirement for scholarship eligibility. If you are an extended family member who serves as a guardian for a child living in your home, please provide a written affidavit of explanation to accompany the student's application.

Question: If more than one application is very good, is it possible that more than one person will share the award this year?

Answer: No. Awards will not be split. The committee will choose the best applicant amongst those who apply and a runner-up.

Question: If I am chose for an award, am I guaranteed to receive the monetary award?

Answer: Unfortunately the answer is “no”. You must respond within sixty (60) days of notification (or sixty days after the start of the school semester – whichever is latest) by providing official proof of enrollment in your program for the current fall semester. The sixty days begins with the date of the email (which is the preferred method of contact) or the postmark if mailed via USPS.

Question: Can I provide a copy of my acceptance letter or some of my first semester grades as proof of enrollment?

Answer: No. Your registrar’s office will be able to provide current proof of enrollment stamped with your school seal.

Question: What happens if I receive a letter or email that says I am chosen to receive this year’s award, but I do not get back to you with official proof of enrollment within 60 days.

Answer: We will assume you have no interest in the award, and will select the runner up to receive the award instead of you. You will forfeit any claim to the award at that point. Not checking your email address is not an acceptable excuse. If you provide your parent’s postal address, make sure they are checking your mail for you. It is your responsibility.

Question: Can you send my award money directly to my school tuition account?

Answer: We prefer to make the check out to you. That way it will not interfere with any other financial aids monies you are receiving from your school; and you will have more control on where the money is spent.

Question: Do I have to be a full-time student to qualify for the scholarship?

Answer: No, but you have to be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours (or half-time) as substantiated by your registrar’s office.

Question: Instead of mailing my application, can I just hand it to a committee member or the HOA president?

Answer: Unfortunately, there is no way to prove the date of receipt in the event items become misplaced or forgotten if you were to hand it to someone. Therefore, we ask that you use the U.S. Postal service, and email where appropriate.

Question: What is the purpose of the cover letter?

Answer: Use the cover letter to introduce yourself and announce that you are applying for the HOA scholarship for this year. Also, you can let us know that you have already requested an official transcript from [enter your school name here], and letters of recommendation are forthcoming from [name] and [name].