



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Application Kit



ABOUT

HISTORY OF SCHOLASTIC FUND FOR STUDENTS OF HISPANIC DESCENT

The Scholastic Fund for Students of Hispanic Descent (SFSHD) began as a grassroots organization in 1963. It was the brainchild of two Mexican Waukesha high school students, Mary (Garcia) Benavides and Victoria (Hurtado) Herrera, whose goal was to encourage young Hispanics to attend college so that they can better themselves and, hopefully, the community around them. After two years of hard work and fundraising, the group was proud to award its first scholarship in 1965.

The SFSHD has undergone many changes since its inception, allowing the organization to grow from a small grass roots idea into an incorporated entity. Originally called the Scholastic Fund for Mexican American Students, this was the only Hispanic scholarship program in Waukesha. During this time it was considered to be the norm for Hispanic college attendance to be very low. It was our plan to raise the consciousness of local citizens to the importance of a college education for Waukesha's Hispanic people. To do this, we have been involved in various fund raisers and local events to help bring our culture to the city, including being part of the long running event, "Fiesta Waukesha", from 1982 to 2005, and being part of "Mexican Fiesta," in Milwaukee from 1977 to 2011.

In 1974 we became a state recognized non-profit, charitable organization, making many of our efforts tax deductible to the public and local businesses. This change encouraged the organization to alter its bylaws to incorporate a wider range of applicants, not just Mexican American students. To reflect this change, we became the Scholastic Fund for Students of Hispanic Descent, allowing any Hispanic Waukesha city high school senior a chance for a higher education. In 2002 we developed The SFSHD Annual Golf outing, our largest fundraiser, which averages about 100 golfers annually.

As of 2020 the organization has proudly awarded over 525 scholarships. With the help of our elected executive board, dedicated members, and a fantastic group of faithful volunteers, we hope to encourage the Waukesha Hispanic youth to strive for a higher education, a stronger community, and a better future for all.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The SFSHD Scholarship Program is open to young men or women of Hispanic descent who are current high school seniors of the City of Waukesha, Wisconsin, who desire to undertake post-secondary education.

Please review the rules and regulations to be certain you meet all qualification requirements. If you meet the requirements, please complete and submit your application for consideration.

ELIGIBILITY

APPLICANT MUST BE OF LATIN BLOOD QUANTUM, NO MATTER THE AMOUNT.

- Applicant must be a graduating senior of the City of Waukesha.
- Application must be completed in its entirety. Missing information shall result in a null and void application.
- Applicant must attend an accredited college or vocational institution within the 50 United States.
- Deadline is listed on the application of the current year. Applications received past this date will not be considered. Applications can be mailed in hard copy form or emailed along with 2 letters of recommendation and 2 essays.
- If at the time of application deadline, the applicant is still undecided as to their future educational institution, or has chosen to attend a different school than that stated on the application; it is the responsibility of the applicant to notify the Scholastic Fund for Students of Hispanic Descent no later than July 15th of the current year. Failure to notify will result in loss of consideration.
- Notification of the scholarship will take place during the applicant's high school honors/awards ceremony. All scholarship money will be sent directly to the admissions office of the designated school by mid-August. The scholarship applies only to the first year immediately following high school graduation.

PREPARING FOR YOUR APPLICATION

1. GATHER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

You'll be asked to provide basic personal information along with contact information and employment history.

2. CHOOSE YOUR SCHOOL

In order to apply for this application, you'll need information about the college you plan to attend, the intended field of study, as well as information considering duration of attendance, tuition and living expenses. You'll also be asked to provide any additional scholarship source applications and receipts.

3. ASK FOR REFERENCE LETTERS

Two letters of reference must be included with this application from any of the following: Clergy, counselor, teacher, employer. PDF or Word Doc required to upload to your application form.

4. GPA AND CLASS RANK VERIFICATION

You'll need to include your GPA and Class Rank and either a Guidance Counselor or the Guidance Secretary must verify this with a signature. Use page 5 of this application kit to collect this information, scan and upload to your application form.

5. WRITE YOUR ESSAYS

Please upload a PDF or Word document with your essay including several paragraphs written to answer both of the following questions:

1. As an American of Hispanic descent, briefly explain the importance of your heritage and the influence it has had on your life and growth as an individual.
2. Briefly describe your plans for the future.

6. ENSURE EVERYTHING'S IN ORDER

Before you begin filling out the application form, ensure that you've collected all the necessary information, letters and signatures required to apply. Double check that you meet the requirements and ask a mentor or teacher to proofread your essays.

7. COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BEFORE DEADLINE

Make sure you give yourself enough time to complete the application form with required documents. No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.



GPA & CLASS RANK VERIFICATION

GPA: _____ **CLASS RANK:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

