



## Student Scholarship Application - Instructions

Congratulations! You have taken the first step in applying for a Sequoia Awards scholarship!

The Sequoia Awards is a non-profit organization which was established in 1990. A group of volunteers comprises our board of directors. Members of our board come from all walks of life and have joined together with a common vision and mission to promote volunteerism in the Redwood City community by recognizing and honoring exemplary volunteer service performed by students each year.

The Sequoia Awards scholarships are presented annually at our awards banquet, which is attended by the student scholarship recipients, their families, donors, community leaders, and our board members.

Since its inception in 1990, The Sequoia Awards Scholarship Program has awarded over \$2,200,000 in scholarships to more than 300 students. This has been made possible by the generosity of businesses, foundations, individuals, and our board members. In recent years, we have awarded multiple scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to a single Outstanding Student of the Year scholarship of \$25,000.

We encourage you to complete and submit this application package if you meet the eligibility requirements outlined below. We promise that this application package will be much easier to complete than your college/university applications!

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To apply for a Sequoia Awards scholarship, you must:

- have performed voluntary community service
- be a high school senior
- reside at a Redwood City mailing address

To be considered for a Sequoia Awards scholarship, you must:

- submit all required application forms and documents
- submit the completed application package by the deadline of October 31
- provide only truthful and accurate information
- be present at all required interviews
- attend the Awards Banquet in March. There is no cost for you or your family to attend.

To receive a Sequoia Awards scholarship, you must:

- meet all eligibility criteria listed above
- be selected to receive a scholarship

## STUDENT APPLICATIONS

To apply online, you will need to provide the following completed documents in PDF format.

1. General Information form

2. Student Volunteer Activity Summary form

Make a copy of this form to list more than 3 volunteer activities.

3. Scholarship Recipient Agreement & Student/Parent Release form

Must be signed by applicant and parent/guardian

4. Student Essay on Volunteerism

**Prompt:** What have you learned from volunteering? or What has volunteering meant to you? Must be written and typed by the applicant. Must be double spaced and not exceed 3 pages in length.

5. Letter of Recommendation

Must be prepared, signed and dated by one of the following people:

- a contact person listed on the Volunteer Activity Summary form
- a teacher
- a school counselor
- a school administrator

## 6. Official High School Transcript

Must be current and endorsed as official by the school Registrar

### DEADLINE

The completed Student Volunteer Application package must be submitted via email by **October 31** to [apply@SequoiaAwards.org](mailto:apply@SequoiaAwards.org). No exceptions.

If you cannot submit online, please email [apply@SequoiaAwards.org](mailto:apply@SequoiaAwards.org) by **October 1** to coordinate other arrangements.

### EVALUATION PROCESS

The entire evaluation process is performed by Sequoia Awards board members. Applications are reviewed for eligibility based on the requirements stated above. References are verified and selected applicants are invited for interviews. An interview panel studies the application packages and conducts the interviews in order to evaluate the depth and breadth of each applicant's volunteer service, and the applicant's overall commitment to volunteerism. After the first round of interviews, the interview panel will select the applicants who will be awarded a scholarship. A second interview may be required to determine the appropriate scholarship level.

### QUESTIONS?

We are here to help you! While we cannot help you complete your application package, we can answer any questions you may have regarding the application process.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Andy Frisch via telephone at (650) 363-2423 ext. 4 (Monday – Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.) or via email at [apply@SequoiaAwards.org](mailto:apply@SequoiaAwards.org),