



SPARC Scholars APPLICATION FORM

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The *SPARC Scholars* Fund is housed at The Greater Washington Community Foundation (GWCF). The Fund is administered through The Community Foundation in Montgomery County, an affiliate of GWCF.

The Fund was created by an anonymous family to provide scholarships to youth who display a passion – whether in athletics, the arts or other areas – as well as a commitment to succeed academically. Scholarship awards are intended to enable rising 6 – 12 grade students attend private schools within the Washington Metropolitan Region.

AWARD AVAILABILITY

Awardees of the *SPARC Scholars* Fund may receive up to \$7,500 annually to attend a private school in the Washington Metropolitan Region. Students may be eligible for renewal scholarship grants in subsequent years if they continue to pursue academic and extra-curricular achievement. Scholarship winners who demonstrate great accomplishments throughout middle and high school may be eligible to apply for continued scholarship support as they pursue higher education.

Please note that this is a highly competitive selection process. Only a few students will be selected each year to receive scholarships.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible if you:

- Have demonstrated a considerable interest in extra-curricular activities and academic promise;
- Are a member of a family with significant financial need;
- Are a rising middle or high school student entering 6 – 12 grade in the next academic year;
- Are a resident of Washington Metropolitan Region*; and
- Are applying to or are currently enrolled in a private/independent school within the Washington Metropolitan Region.

*The Washington Metropolitan Region is considered Maryland, Virginia and/or Washington DC.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be considered on the basis of need and general quality of the application, with preference given to those who demonstrate interest and drive to succeed academically and in their outside pursuits.



CHECKLIST OF MATERIALS

Please note that applications must be submitted with all of the following components. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Signed application form.
- A brief personal statement (refer to the enclosed Personal Statement form).
- A copy of your school transcripts.
- At least two letters of recommendation*:
 - One from a coach/trainer, teacher or mentor who can attest to your commitment in your area of interest (e.g., sports, music, etc.).
 - One from a teacher, instructor, mentor or other adult who can attest to your academic achievements.

Please note that recommendations may not be completed by family members.
- A copy of your recent family income statement submitted to the private school as part of your application **OR** the enclosed Financial Need Statement.
- A Tuition and Financial Aid Worksheet (refer to enclosed form).
- A copy of your financial aid award letter from the school you wish to attend. This is the letter from the school which states the exact amount your family is responsible to pay for the coming school year.

*If you are in the process of applying to a private/independent school, you may submit the same letters of recommendation prepared for the school's application. You may also opt to submit original letters specifically geared for the **SPARC Scholars** scholarship.

We also understand that in addition to tuition, you will incur other school-related expenses for things such as books, lessons, field trips, etc. These types of costs will be taken into consideration as well when determining the total amount awarded to each scholarship recipient.

Please note that the Selection Committee will also accept nominations from private schools. School nominations must include a letter of recommendation from the headmaster or senior staff member in the admissions office; a copy of the student's transcript; a letter from a teacher/coach/trainer/mentor who can attest to the student's extra-curricular interests and academic promise; a copy of the student's recent family income statement; and a copy of the financial aid award letter from the school which states the exact amount the family is responsible to pay for the coming school year.



APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1st

All applications and attachments must be emailed by Friday, May 1st. Applications must be emailed to the address below. Please note that faxes, hand-delivered, and mailed applications will not be accepted.

Email: ohsu@thecommunityfoundation.org

It is highly recommended that you retain a copy of the full application for your own records. Please be sure to make a copy before submitting the application to The Community Foundation.

NOTIFICATION & FOLLOW UP

Students will be notified of their application status by June 16th. Scholarship winners will be required to provide proof of enrollment by July 1st. Students who do not enroll in private school or fail to submit the necessary documentation will forfeit their scholarship for the year. Each year, scholarship winners will be expected to provide documentation of their academic progress and involvement in extra-curricular activities to the *SPARC Scholars* Selection Committee in order to be considered for renewal scholarship grants.

QUESTIONS

Questions about the *SPARC Scholars* Fund may be directed via email to ohsu@thecommunityfoundation.org. No phone calls please.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Name of Current School: _____

Address of School: _____

City State Zip Code

Dates attended: From _____ to _____ (Month/Year)

Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____ weighted GPA unweighted GPA
(if applicable)

If you are in the process of applying to a private/independent school, please list the name(s) of the school(s) and the status of your application(s). Attach additional sheets as necessary.

School #1

School Name

Address

City State Zip Code

- Application Submitted (I am waiting to hear back from the school)
- Application Accepted

School #2

School Name

Address

City State Zip Code

- Application Submitted (I am waiting to hear back from the school)
- Application Accepted



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List your participation and awards in extra-curricular activities, such as team sports, art classes, drama clubs, etc. For ongoing activities, be sure to note the date range of your participation (e.g. 9/2021 – 5/2024). Attach additional sheets as needed.

Extra-Curricular Activities

List your participation in extra-curricular activities, whether through school-based or community organizations.

| Program/Activity Name, Name of School/Program/Community Group | Dates of Participation |
|---|------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Volunteer and Community Service Activities

List your participation in any volunteer and community service activities.

| Program/Activity Name | Dates of Participation |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Awards and Recognitions

List any school, athletic or community awards you have received in the last 2 years.

| Award, Name of School/Community Group, Program/Activity Name | Dates Received |
|--|----------------|
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| | |



APPLICATION CHECK LIST

Please confirm that your application packet includes each of the 6 documents:

- A brief Personal Statement (refer to the enclosed form).
- A copy of your most recent report card.
- Two letters of recommendation:
 - One focused on your extra-curricular area of interest and pursuit.
 - One focused on your academic achievements.

You can include the same letters of recommendation that were submitted with your school application or send in original letters specifically geared towards the *SPARC Scholars* scholarship (see enclosed Recommendation Form). Recommendations may not be completed by family members.

- A Financial Need Statement (refer to the enclosed form) **OR** a copy of your family income statement submitted to the private school as part of your application.
- A Tuition and Financial Aid Worksheet (refer to enclosed form).
- A copy of your financial aid award letter* from the school you wish to attend. This letter should provide an exact amount your family will be responsible for on an annual basis.

*Check the box below if you have not received your financial aid award letter from the school by the application deadline.

- The financial aid award letter is not included. I will send a copy of the letter immediately upon receipt. I understand that I may be ineligible for the scholarship if I do not submit the financial aid award letter from the school.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian (1 or 2)

Date



SPARC Scholars
FINANCIAL NEED STATEMENT

INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are also required to submit **EITHER** (A) a copy of the family income statement which was submitted to the private school as part of the application, or (B) the following financial need statement.

If you plan to submit this financial need statement, please type your answers or print clearly using blue or black ink.

PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION

| | Parent/Guardian 1 | Parent/Guardian 2 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Adjusted gross income from work: | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| Untaxed income and benefits: (child support, AFDC, ADC, SSI) | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| Other income : (rental income, income from savings, etc.) | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |

Total number of family members: _____

Current marital status of Parents/Guardians:

- Single Married Separated Divorced Widowed

Total number of family members who will be attending private school and/or college in the next academic year: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (1 or 2)

Date



SPARC Scholars
TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID WORKSHEET

School Name: _____

Department Name, Address, fax number, and primary phone number for office which processes all outside scholarship awards (e.g., Business Office, Financial Aid office, etc.)

SCHOOL RELATED EXPENSES

Total Tuition _____

Total Fees, Room, and Board + _____

Total Books + _____

Total Other School Related Costs (specify only if applicable)

1. _____ + _____

2. _____ + _____

Total Expenses = _____

TOTAL AID

Other Private Scholarships _____
(If applicable, list sources below)

Financial Aid from School + _____

Total Aid = _____

Total balance student/family is expected to pay out of pocket _____
(i.e., total expenses - total aid = family's expected contribution)

If applicable, list sources of other private scholarships:



SPARC Scholars
RECOMMENDATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

You must provide at least two letters of recommendation: one that speaks to your extra-curricular activities and one focused on your academic achievements. Letters of recommendation may be submitted by teachers, instructors, coaches, mentors or other adults who are familiar with your academic talent, extra-curricular endeavors and can attest to your character. Recommendations may not be completed by family members.

You may either ask your references to submit a letter which answers all of the following questions, or ask them to complete this form.

RECOMMENDATION QUESTIONS

Name of Reference: _____ Title: _____

Schools/Company/Other Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Email: _____



Name of applicant: _____

How do you know the applicant? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Please tell the *SPARC Scholars* Selection Committee why you think this applicant should be awarded a scholarship. Please share how you have seen his/her promise demonstrated, especially in academics and his/her outside pursuits. Use the reverse side or additional pages if necessary.

Signature

Date