

Youth Opportunity Scholarships

John Muir & Bancroft Middle Schools

Dear Students and Families,

San Leandro Education Foundation is excited to partner with the **Youth Opportunity Scholarship** program! This program is supported by a San Francisco-based family foundation that is interested in giving San Francisco and Oakland youth opportunities to develop and follow their passions.

What is the Youth Opportunity Scholarships program about?

The goal of the program is to help students pursue their passion. Students can apply for scholarships of up to \$250 to pay for extracurricular activities of their choosing. This is a chance for students to dream big and decide what it is that they want to learn. Students can renew their scholarship one time. Each student is eligible to receive a total of \$500 in scholarships.

Who can apply?

Students in 5-8th grade entering or attending Bancroft and John Muir Middle Schools.

What can I apply for?

Whatever you're excited about! Students can apply for scholarships to cover the cost of any program or activity that they would like to pursue. In the past, students have used the money for dance classes, music lessons, sports teams, creative arts courses, outdoor activities, and more.

A resource list of sample activities is provided, but students can apply for activities not included on the list. **Please note: Checks can only be issued to businesses or organizations. They cannot be made out to individuals. Please research the activity to ensure that the check can be made out to a business/organization.**

How do I apply?

There are two parts to the application: the application form and the personal essay. The application form is where the student lists information about themselves, the activity they want to do, and information about their adult contact. The adult contact can be anyone (parent/guardian, sibling, counselor, etc.) who is willing to ensure regular attendance and coordinate transportation to/from the activity for the student, but a parent/guardian signature is required on all applications.

The personal essay is the most important part of the application. Students must write or type an essay that addresses each of the questions listed on the application form. Students can also include video, artwork, photos, or other items to further illustrate their answers.

Applications are accepted year round. Once complete, students can turn them into:

Jasmine Vega, Parent Facilitator, John Muir MS

Joanna Garcia, Parent Facilitator, Bancroft MS

Morgan Mack-Rose, SLED, morgan@sledfund.org

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Is there a deadline to apply?

Applications are accepted year round.

What if the activity I want to do costs more than \$250?

Students are eligible to receive a scholarship of \$250 which can be renewed once to continue the same activity (for a lifetime total of \$500). The full \$500 can be requested at once for summer camps. If the activity costs more than the allotted amount, the student must explain how they plan to cover the balance in their personal essay.

Can I apply for a scholarship to pay for classes that I am already taking?

Opportunity Scholarships cannot be applied to activities that are ongoing or have already taken place; the goal is to help students try something that they would be unable to do otherwise.

What if I can't find out all the information required about the program/activity?

Applications cannot be accepted unless all the required information is provided. Make sure to contact the service provider to find out details about costs, start/end dates, and to ensure that space is available. The amount requested should match the actual cost of the program.

What is the responsibility of the adult contact listed?

The adult contact must oversee that the scholarship is spent as described in the request. The adult must agree to ensure regular attendance by the student and outline the plan for transportation. This person can be a parent/guardian, sibling, teacher, counselor, or any other adult who is willing to support the student in pursuing the activity. No matter who the adult contact is, a parent/guardian signature is required on all applications.

What am I responsible for after receiving the scholarship?

Students must agree to regularly attend the activity for which the scholarship is awarded. Students must also report back about their experience and what they learned. Report forms will be included with award letters.

After I submit my application, when will I hear back?

Students who submit a complete application will receive an award packet approximately 2 weeks after the scholarship deadline. Applications that are incomplete will not be considered. Unfortunately due to the volume of requests we receive, we cannot reply to those submitting incomplete requests.

How do I receive the scholarship funds?

Scholarship award packets will be sent to your school or you will be contacted directly.

I have already received a Youth Opportunity Scholarship. Can I reapply?

No, students who have previously received a scholarship cannot apply again.

I applied for one activity but changed my mind. Can I switch to another after receiving my check?

No. Once a student has received a check, activities cannot be switched due to the extensive administrative time and cost required. We strongly encourage students to research activities before applying since switching activities isn't possible. (Students can contact service providers to observe or try activities before applying.)

What if I receive the scholarship and can no longer do the activity?

Please return the check to Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, 1222 Preservation Park Way, Oakland CA 94612 within 60 days. Any check that is not cashed in 60 days will expire and need to be cancelled. Bank charges for cancelled checks are expensive and take away valuable resources from other students.

Additional questions can be directed to youthopportunityscholarships@gmail.com