



DIAMONDS Scholar Application

A signature program of Founders Commission, **DIAMONDS** is an annual storytelling experience and gala that honors the Rockford region's long lineage of exemplary brands and people. DIAMONDS embodies the pressure and process necessary to achieve the highest level of excellence and, as such, the Founders Commission is thrilled to announce the **DIAMONDS Scholar** program. Eligible high school seniors in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties, DIAMONDS Scholar scholarships will be awarded annually for post-secondary schooling and/or technical training. In alignment with the theme of each year's DIAMONDS program, priority may be given to applicants interested in career paths that are relevant to that year's DIAMONDS theme.



To be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship, the applicant must be a 2024 graduating high school student from Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago counties who will be attending post-secondary educational institutions (college, community college, university, technical, trades school) during the 2024-25 school year. For scholarship awardees, Founders Commission will present a check written, in the name of each winning student, to her/his appropriate post-secondary school account.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

DIAMONDS Scholar consideration will be given to applicants who:

- Are a high school graduating senior residing in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago counties
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0/4.0
- Have a demonstrated ability to thrive under pressure while embodying excellence
- Showcase a commitment to volunteerism in the Rockford region
- Submit a completed application by the due date
- Scholarships may endure on annual basis through the entirety of the winning applicant's post-secondary education if the student (1) maintains a minimum post-secondary grade point average of 2.5/4.0 and (2) completes at least 10 hours of volunteer community service work per semester

2023-24 APPLICATION CYCLE

- September 18, 2023: Applications Open
- January 31, 2024: Applications Due
- February-March 2024: Review Period
- April 2024: Scholarship winner(s) finalized
- Spring/Summer 2024: Scholarship Winner(s) Recognized at DIAMONDS

DIAMONDS SCHOLAR APPLICATION MATERIALS

To be considered for a DIAMONDS Scholar award, please return this completed application and include: (1) responses to the below essay questions (Word document/PDF); (2) a copy of your resume; and (3) two letters of recommendation with contact's name, organization, phone number and email address. **All information is required for the application to be considered.**

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APPLICANT ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. How has a commitment to excellence and ingenuity shaped your experience as a student?
2. How have you balanced your individual ability to thrive under pressure within a community/team environment?

Note: *The two responses should total approximately 500 words combined.*

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:

Address:

Email and Phone:

High School and Graduating Year:

Grade Point Average (4.0 Scale):

Extra/Co-curricular Activities:

Community Service/Volunteerism:

Post-High School Institution:

Anticipated Major(s)/Post-Secondary Track:

APPLICATION CONTACT/DEADLINE

Completed applicant information, essay question answers, resumes and references must be **received by January 31, 2024**. No late submissions will be considered.

Email complete materials (PDF/Word files only) to Info@FoundersCommission.org.

Note: *Founders Commission reserves the right to amend and change application and eligibility requirements.*

THANK YOU