



2023-24 Scholarships

Application Deadline: December 18, 2023 at 5:00 PM

For questions please call the Aurora Public Schools Foundation at 303-326-2042 or email APSFoundation@aurorak12.org

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APSF Scholarship

The APS Foundation scholarship was created through the generosity of individuals, families and organizations throughout our community. This scholarship helps foster the college and career bound culture within the district, and will provide two scholarships to APS students this year.

Since its inception in 1987, the Aurora Public Schools Foundation has served to foster support of education within the Aurora Public School District by bringing together teachers, business-people, parents, alumni and community leaders.

Our Vision: Possibility becomes reality for every student.

Our Mission: Cultivate community investment to enrich student opportunity.

- 4 (four), \$2,000, scholarships will be awarded this spring and will be paid directly to the student's institute of higher education.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- A cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0;
- Demonstrates leadership, and extracurricular involvement;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from an APS High School; and
- United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of high school transcripts;
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation; and
- Write an essay of 500 - 1,000 words on their goals and values, and who helped them most to make decisions about their college or career path.

Aurora Gateway Rotary Presidential Scholarship

The Rotary Club's mission is to provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional and community leaders. The Aurora Gateway Rotary Club lives out this mission in the Aurora community; and in service to others developed the Aurora Gateway Rotary Scholarship benefiting graduating seniors in Aurora Public Schools.

- Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded each year to high school seniors. The scholarships will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education for the purpose of tuition, fees and books. The recipients will be selected by members of the Aurora Gateway Rotary Club.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A student who is graduating from an Aurora Public Schools high school;
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.8 or higher;
- A student who has participated in a minimum of two community service projects during their high school career;
- Applicants must be pursuing a certificate, credentialed or degree program at a technical, two or four year college.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of most current and official stamped high school transcripts;
- Students must provide two letters of recommendation – one from a teacher and one from a community member;
- Students must submit a written explanation not to exceed 250 words stating why this scholarship is beneficial;
- Students must submit a written letter of at least 500 words to the selection committee detailing how they live out the Rotary Guiding Principles of Ethics, Integrity and Service.
- Please incorporate how these Guiding Principles align with your future career plans.
- Scholarship finalists will be asked to complete an interview with the Scholarship Selection Committee.

This is an unrestricted scholarship based on overall achievement or criteria stated in this document.

Dee and Steve Lambert Scholarship

The Dee and Steve Lambert Scholarship honors Steve Lambert, a graduate of Aurora Central High School. The scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of Aurora Central High School who meets the selection criteria specified in the next section of this document.

- One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually each spring and will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education.
- Further the student can receive \$2,000 each year for up to three additional years by maintaining a 3.0 GPA, submitting a report card and submitting the upcoming semester's schedule to the Aurora Public Schools Foundation.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Be a graduating senior from Aurora Central High School;
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- Plan to pursue a degree in engineering;
- Demonstrate financial need through a personal statement; and
- Demonstrate volunteer and community service activity.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a completed application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation
- Provide a copy of their high school transcript
- Demonstrate financial need through a personal statement
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation, from either teacher, administrator, counselor, coach or current/former employer.
- A short essay (500 words or less) as to why they would like to pursue a degree in engineering.

Denise Davis Scholarship

Denise Davis, an Assessment and Training Specialist for Arapahoe County Employment and Training, was a passionate advocate for students at William Smith High School and throughout Aurora Public School.

Making a difference in the lives of young parents and students was Davis' mission. Armed with only a desk, telephone, and computer, Davis set a network of support and resources for teens by working with the Arapahoe Office of Employment and Training and the Metro Denver Provider Network.

The Denise Davis Scholarship fund has been established to continue Davis' work and will be awarded to William Smith High School student seeking higher education.

- One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in the spring and will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education;
- Renewable after first year at higher education institution for one additional \$2,000 scholarship based upon student keeping a full time status (by providing Foundation with second year schedule) and maintaining a 3.0 or higher GPA (by providing Foundation first year transcript).

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A graduate/current student of William Smith High School;
- Demonstrate financial need;
- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- Demonstrate involvement in school or community service activities;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from an APS High School; and
- United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of high school transcripts;
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation from high school faculty members; and
- Submit a one page outline of your school/community service; your educational plans upon graduation; and how this scholarship will assist you.

Dorothy Osborn Barry Scholarship

The Dorothy Osborn Barry Educational Fund is intended for women who have overcome obstacles in their lives, and are determined to change their direction and better themselves by pursuing a course of education or training that will help them become self-reliant.

- One, \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded annually each spring and will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education for tuition, fees, books, and supplies.

Recipients of the Dorothy Osborn Barry Educational Fund will be selected based upon the application and the woman's:

- Determination to change her circumstance;
- Potential for success;
- Financial need;
- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- Attitude and character, not aptitude; and
- Ability to express herself verbally and in writing.

Applicants must be women who:

- Demonstrate the desire and need to make a second start in their lives;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from an APS High School with a school diploma or GED, OR present proof of admission to an institution of higher learning or trade school; and
- United States Citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Women who apply for this scholarship must complete the electronic application and attach the following:

- Submit a completed application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of their high school transcript, GED, OR present proof of admission to an institution of higher learning or trade school;
- A personally written essay, of 1,000 words or less, expressing a desire for a second chance with the determination to be successful in that effort; and
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a teacher.

Gene Yahn Memorial Scholarship

Gene Yahn was a teacher, coach, and supporter of Aurora Central High School Athletics for 22 years. In his memory, his family wanted to recognize current Aurora Central student athletes who embodied the same type of hard work and determination that Gene found to be so important throughout his lifetime. The Gene Yahn Memorial Scholarship will be presented to two student athletes annually from 2021-2026. The recipients will be selected by the Yahn family with support from the ACHS Athletic Department.

- Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded each year to two Aurora Central High School student athletes. The scholarships will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A student athlete who has participated in a varsity level, CHSAA sanctioned sport for at least two seasons and a written letter of recommendation from an athletic coach for a student athlete that has competed in only one varsity level season;
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.8 or higher;
- A student who has participated in a minimum of two community service projects during their high school career;
- The student must have applied to at least one post-secondary institution;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from Aurora Central High School.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of high school transcripts;
- Students must submit a written letter of at least 300 words to the selection committee detailing why they are a deserving applicant. This letter must also include what the student plans to do following their high school graduation.

Gerkin Family Expository Writing Scholarship

This award is intended to reward writers who can create a strong single effect on their audience through a portfolio of two different types of expository pieces including, but not limited to, research paper, essay, personal essay, memoir, article or other expository piece. (For example, a student may submit a research paper and a memoir, but not two research papers or two memoirs.) Fiction and Poetry will not be accepted. Each piece should take risks in terms of language to show the author knows how to manipulate language for voice. Writing should demonstrate a strong use of rhythm, diction and utilize a strong tone.

- One, \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded annually each spring and will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- A cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from an APS High School; and
- United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of high school transcripts;
- Provide one letter of recommendation; and
- Submit an Expository Portfolio (minimum of two pieces): Each piece must be a minimum of 800 words and maximum of 1,500 words. Each piece must be double-spaced. Any material coming from an outside source must be appropriately documented using APA, MLA, or other similar style manual.

Kara Abbott Memorial Scholarship

The Kara Abbott Memorial Scholarship honors Kara Abbott, a dedicated and passionate math teacher at East Middle School for 8 years. Kara Hayden Abbott was born March 21, 1984 in Houston, Texas. She grew up in Aurora, Colorado and attended Rangeview High School, where she played basketball, learned German and traveled to Italy- an interest she continued to pursue throughout her adult life. After high school, she attended the University of Colorado, where she obtained her bachelor's degree, but soon learned her passion was in teaching. She went back to school, receiving a second bachelor's and master's degree in Education at Mississippi State University. She returned to Aurora with her pup, Bella, and Kara was exactly where she wanted to be. East Middle School was her home. Before her passing, she had committed to learning Spanish in order to better connect with her students. She loved teaching, and was motivated watching her students succeed

The scholarship is awarded to a senior student who plans to continue their education post-high school. The award amount is \$5,000 payable to the recipient's account at the educational institution of choice. The scholarship recipient should possess qualities such as being reflective, driven, and passionate about self-development and contribution to community. The scholarship recipient should have a 3.0 grade point average or higher and a history of participation in extracurricular activities. Special consideration will be given to applicants who are pursuing a career in education.

- Four awards to four recipients for \$5,000 each (payable to the recipient's account at their educational institution of choice). The scholarship can be used for tuition, fees or books.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Be a graduating high school senior who attended East Middle School;
- Be currently attending an Aurora Public School high school, graduating this year with at least a 3.0 GPA;
- Be planning to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited college, university or technical school, beginning in the fall after graduation; and
- Demonstrate financial need.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Personal Essay - In 750-1000 words, describe an experience where you learned an important lesson. How has this experience shaped your development, and how does it continue to drive you? Describe your future goals and how you will use this lesson to achieve these goals and to positively influence others.
- Statement of financial need - Students must submit a written explanation not to exceed 250 words stating why this scholarship is beneficial.
- High school transcript
- High school activities – Student must list high school and extracurricular activities and year(s) of participation. One additional sheet may be used for this information, if needed. *Examples: sports teams, clubs, band, choral, orchestra, yearbook, school paper, tutoring, jobs.*
- Two (2) letters of recommendation are required from a teacher, administrator, counselor or community member.

Kristin D. Hiza Memorial Scholarship

Kristin Diann (Horgan) Hiza was born in Yonkers on September 22, 1977. She earned a BS degree (with honors) in Athletic Training from Springfield College and a Master's degree in Education from Denver University. Kristin was a beloved 4th and 5th grade teacher at Tollgate Elementary. Kristin's courageous sprit, love for life, and dedication to teaching made a positive impact on her students and fellow educators. This scholarship award is made in memory of Kristin D. Hiza.

- One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded annually each spring and will be paid directly to the student's institute of higher education.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0;
- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from an APS High School; and
- United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- A personally written essay, of 500 words or less, describing your financial need and how this scholarship will assist you;
- Provide a copy of high school transcripts; and
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation.

Rangeview High School Scholarship

The Rangeview High School Faculty will award four \$800 scholarships to 4 (four) graduating seniors who will attend a post-secondary institution.

- These scholarships are one time, non-renewable.
- Scholarship money will be sent directly to the post-secondary institution.
- Winners will be notified and honored at Convocation.
- Please note that the committee will access and review your high school transcript.

Application Requirements:

- Must be a graduating senior of Rangeview High School.
- Must have a minimum weighted grade point average of 2.75.
- Must attend a post-secondary institution upon graduation.
- Must complete the official application and submit it with two (2) recommendation forms from Rangeview High School staff members.
- Complete the following application
- Send (email) the recommendation form in the following application to two (2) RHS staff members for them to complete on your behalf.

Richard Anderson and Anderson Family Autism Scholarship

This scholarship, established in 2014, is intended for an Aurora Public School graduating senior who has been diagnosed with Autism. This scholarship is to be used to further their education goals in a post secondary school. The scholarship was established because, in our search for scholarships for students with autism, we found that an autistic student may not qualify for many scholarships. An autistic student has different challenges in their life. The purpose of this scholarship is to help an autistic student attend a post secondary school so that they can further their educational goals.

The objective of this scholarship is to award an Autistic student who may not otherwise have a chance to further their education after high school.

- One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded annually each spring and will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A cumulative GPA of 2.0;
- Have an Autism diagnosis;
- Financial need;
- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from an APS High School; and
- United States Citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a completed application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of their high school transcript;
- Provide documentation from a licensed Medical Physician, or school counselor, that they have been diagnosed with Autism;
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation, one from a teacher at their high school; and
- A short essay (250 words or less) as to what their area of study will be and why they would like to pursue a degree in that field.

The Myrtle Replogle Travis and Russell Romaine Travis Scholarship

The Replogle-Travis Scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating senior at Aurora Central High School.

The scholarship award may be applied toward the pursuit of higher education at any university, college or accredited technical school.

- Two \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded annually to two different students each spring and will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A high value of scholarship and achievement;
- A wholesome influence upon others;
- A genuine concern for those in need;
- An abiding personal faith;
- No racial discrimination;
- No involvement with drugs or alcohol;
- Low income family member;
- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- Be in good standing at Aurora Central High School and a cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from Aurora Central High School; and
- United States Citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of high school transcripts;
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation; and
- Write an essay of 1,000 words or less on their goals, values and how they meet the requirements above.

T. Matt Hirschfeld Scholarship

Matt attended Gateway High School from 1992-1994. A charming young man, Matt participated in sports and school activities, including skiing, and fishing. He especially loved biking and soccer. Matt had a dimpled smile and was always willing to help friends and family.

The scholarship objective is to reward an average student who may not always get recognized for effort versus academic achievement.

- One \$2,000 scholarship for a student attending a 4-year institution or One \$1,000 scholarship for a student attending a 2-year institution (\$500 each year for a 4-year institution or \$500 each year for a 2-year institution – If a student attends a 2-year institution and transfers to a 4-year institution they can apply for an additional \$1,000 award). Awarded annually each spring and will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Applicants must be a graduating senior from Gateway High School;
- A cumulative minimum GPA between 2.0 to 3.25;
- Must be accepted at an accredited college/university/technical school;
- Applicants must be a graduating senior from an APS High School; and
- United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of high school transcripts;
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation (one not from a teacher); and
- Please answer the following questions:
 - How will this scholarship help you reach your educational and career goals?
 - List the community, school and sports or recreational activities you have been involved in during your high school career.
 - Describe how these activities have made a positive contribution to your school or community.
 - Describe ways in which you help others on a regular basis.

Westerra Credit Union Scholarship

Westerra Credit Union is a financial cooperative locally-owned by the people who have accounts at the credit union. Eight Denver teachers started the credit union in the midst of the Great Depression. They pooled their funds and made loans to each other to strengthen families and the community during that crisis. Today they carry that mission forward to help families and communities through the financial hardship of the COVID-19 crisis. Denver-based Westerra Credit Union holds over \$1.9 billion in assets and serves 125,000 members throughout the Denver metro area. Westerra Credit Union recognizes high school seniors with proven academic, community involvement and extracurricular activities by providing higher-education scholarships.

- The credit union awards one, \$5,000 scholarship to graduating high school seniors who are continuing on to technical school or college. Applicants are selected based on personal and career goals, community involvement, extracurricular activities, and financial need.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- Spring 2023 high school graduate, with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- Show acceptance to a higher-education institution within the United States, and begin school as a full-time freshman in autumn 2023.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- A list of all extracurricular activities (school, religious, community, and sports). Include honors and awards, organizations and clubs you participated in including dates, offices held, responsibilities, etc.
- Your official, high school transcript (obtained from your counselor).
- Personal statement of Financial need.
- Two letters of recommendation, from non-family members who know you well. These can include teachers, counselors, school administrators, employers, coaches, scout or religious leaders, etc.
- A 250-350 word essay describing yourself, why you are uniquely qualified for this scholarship, what going to college means to you, and your goals and interests. Please also state how the scholarship funds will help you further your educational goal.

Zack Golditch Opportunity Scholarship

Zack Golditch is an Aurora, Colorado native who, though in the adjacent theater, was wounded in the 2012 Aurora Theater Shooting. In time, Zack recovered and graduated from Gateway High School. He went on to play D1 football and complete his undergraduate degree from Colorado State University. Zack spent parts of two seasons in the NFL before coming back to the Front Range. He now follows the path of those who came to his aid 10 years ago, as a firefighter at South Metro Fire Rescue. His path to the NFL is chronicled in this article and SC Featured video for ESPN. Zack is a first generation college student and while reflecting on his personal opportunity to attend Colorado State University as a college athlete, he humbly decided to provide similar opportunities for future Aurora Public School students.

The vision of Zack Golditch Opportunity Scholarship (ZGOS) is built on the foundational values of **leadership, gratitude, commitment, and empathy**. The ZGOS seeks to provide an annual scholarship to a first generation high school student-athlete who exemplifies these four core values and has a goal to pursue higher education after high school graduation.

The mission of the ZGOS is to highlight a student-athlete who has been an active participant in sports and an involved member within their school and community; who exemplifies leadership, commitment, gratitude, and empathy. The ZGOS was founded to provide assistance to ambitious individuals who despite their battles with adversity, take advantage of everyday opportunities to better themselves and those around them.

- One \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduating senior. The scholarship will be paid directly to the student's institution of higher education for the purpose of tuition, fees and books. The scholarship will be paid in four installments of \$2,500 during each post-secondary school year.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A student who is graduating from an Aurora Public Schools high school;
- Is the first in their family to attend college (first-generation);
- A student who has a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 or higher;
- A student who has participated in a minimum of three years in organized athletics at their high school;
- Has been active in their community through demonstrated volunteerism, community service and school involvement;
- Demonstrates financial need; and
- Applicants must be pursuing an accredited degree program at a four year institution.

Students must provide the following information for their application to be considered for this scholarship award:

- Submit a complete application to Aurora Public Schools Foundation;
- Provide a copy of most current high school transcript;
- Students must provide one letter of recommendation;
- Students must submit a written explanation not to exceed 250 words stating why this scholarship is financially beneficial;

- Students must submit an essay of at least 500 words detailing how they have overcome adversity in their life and how they live out the ZGOS values of leadership, gratitude, commitment and empathy.