



# Scholarship Application

OPALGA recognizes that young people in the LGBTQ community face unique challenges, both in high school and college. We are committed to providing support for the next generation of activists, supporters, and community members. The OPALGA Scholarship provides financial support to self-identified members of the LGBTQ community and allies from Oak Park and surrounding communities. Scholarships are \$3,000, paid directly to the enrolled institution to support tuition, room and board, books, or other related expenses.

All scholarship applicants must meet the following community, location, and continuing education criteria:

**1. LGBTQ Community**

- identify as an LGBTQ\* person, or
- be the child of an LGBTQ\* person, or
- identify as an ally with a commitment to the LGBTQ\* community

**2. Location**

- be a graduate (or candidate for graduation) of a high school located within a 10-mile radius of Oak Park or
- have attended for at least one previous academic year a college or trade school located within 10 miles of Oak Park

**3. Continuing Education**

- have applied or been accepted to a 4-year or 2-year degree program or trade school certificate program or
- be a continuing student in good standing in a 4-year or 2-year degree program or trade school certificate program

To apply, you will need to submit:

- completed scholarship application
- 1 essay from provided prompts
- at least two letters of recommendation

Recipients will also need to submit an acceptance letter or proof of enrollment and good standing from a degree or certificate-granting institution before funds are awarded.

Application Deadline: **April 1, 2019**

Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on the strength of the essays, recommendations, and extra-curricular activities. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

The OPALGA Board of Directors

\* For purposes of this application, LGBTQ includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, non-binary, genderqueer, and other gender non-conforming people.



# Scholarship Application

## General information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*If this name differs from the name used on your acceptance letter or other necessary documents, we may need to ask you for that name. This will not impact your consideration for the scholarship.

Permanent Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you use a school email address, please be sure to also include an email address which will be valid and active following the end of the academic year.)

Please check one:

- I identify as an LGBTQ person
- I am the child of an LGBTQ person
- I identify as an ally with a commitment to the LGBTQ community



# Scholarship Application

## Academic information

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra-curricular activities (attach additional sheets if needed):

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Name of intended or continuing post-secondary institution(s):

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Are you currently attending a 2- or 4-year degree program? \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, you must provide an acceptance letter or proof of enrollment and good standing. You may need to provide additional student identification information for the award to be correctly deposited. All scholarship monies are sent directly to the enrolled institution.

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## Essay

OPALGA seeks to support individuals who have demonstrated past and/or potential involvement with the LGBTQ community – above and beyond simply identifying as an LGBTQ person, family member or ally. A short essay is your opportunity to describe your involvement. To help structure your essay, please select **ONE** area of focus below.

### 1. Focus: Contributions

- How have you contributed to the LGBTQ community?
- Describe your involvement with the community
- Comment on your service, leadership, volunteerism, advocacy, or any awards or special recognition you may have received.
- Describe what you see as a major issue facing the LGBTQ community in the next 5 years? How can it be addressed?

### 2. Focus: Personal impact

- How has being a part of the LGBTQ community had an effect on your life?
- What challenges have you faced?
- How have you been supported? Who has provided support?
- What kind of advice has been most helpful to you?
- How might you use your experience to contribute to the LGBTQ community in the coming years?

Note: If you are a past scholarship applicant or recipient, please focus your essay on your experiences *in the past year*.

## Instructions

- Write your selected focus area at the top of your essay.
- Address all aspects of your selected area of focus.
- Be specific and use personal examples.
- Essay should be between 500 and 750 words, typed, double-spaced



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## Reference Form

Applicant instructions:

Please submit at least two letters of recommendation from people who can attest to your service, advocacy, and character. Do not include references from family members.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, you may (*but are not required to*) waive the right to inspect this reference letter.

\_\_\_\_ I waive my right to inspect this letter of recommendation

\_\_\_\_ I do not waive my right to inspect this letter of recommendation

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Referee instructions:

The applicant named above is applying for an Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) Scholarship to attend post-secondary education. Please provide your candid assessment of the applicant's service and advocacy for the LGBTQ community and personal character. Please include this completed form with your letter and email it directly to the scholarship committee:

To: opalga.scholarship@gmail.com

Subject: Scholarship application [your name]

Referee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Referee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Scholarship Application

## Check List and Application Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_ General Information Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_ Academic Information Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_ One Essay

\_\_\_\_\_ At least two Letters of Recommendation

Names of references:

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(optional, but will aid us in ensuring we can properly identify all parts of your application)

Please submit application via email to:

opalga.scholarship@gmail.com

Subject: Scholarship application [your name]

Letters of reference should be submitted separately, but your application will not be considered complete until they are received.

By signing this application, I:

- Acknowledge that I understand OPALGA may make inquiries confirming the information I have provided and agree to hold OPALGA harmless concerning this.
- Acknowledge that I understand any false or misleading statements or information may disqualify me from receiving a scholarship.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_