

GBRA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Information and Guidelines

INFORMATION

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has established the GBRA Scholarship Program for high school seniors living in the following 10 counties of GBRA's service area: Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio. Three one-time scholarships to a four-year college/university or a two-year technical/trade school will be awarded. All graduating seniors meeting the eligibility requirements may submit a scholarship application.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to provide financial assistance to talented high school seniors who otherwise might not be able to attend college. GBRA scholarships are awarded without regard to race, sex, gender, national origin, disability or religion. Scholarships can be applied toward tuition, fees, books and/or housing. Payment will be made directly to the recipient's selected institution. Recipients will be recognized at a luncheon with the GBRA Board of Directors. Because GBRA's fiscal year ends August 31, scholarship payment must be sent to the student's designated institution prior to that date. Confirmation of student's enrollment at that institution must be provided even if the school has not officially billed the student for classes.

For scholarships to a four-year college: Each scholarship is a one-time \$2,000 payment to the institution the recipient attends. Recipients may attend any accredited four-year college or university and must complete a minimum of 12 hours per semester (unless agreed upon for summer enrollment).

For scholarships to a two-year technical/trade school: Each scholarship is a one-time \$2,000 payment to the institution the recipient attends. Recipients must enroll in an accredited technical/trade school or two-year degree program.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

GBRA's goal is to encourage and assist students to fulfill their educational endeavors. The following guidelines will be used to determine eligibility and to evaluate applications:

1. Seniors residing in GBRA's 10-county service area (Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio) of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority are eligible to apply for the GBRA scholarship.
2. Students must be nominated by his/her high school and have an overall "B" average or better.
3. Applications will be reviewed and awarded by a selection committee chosen by GBRA.

4. In the event the scholarship recipient receives financial assistance from other sources that would constitute a full scholarship, the recipient shall notify the GBRA Scholarship Coordinator and relinquish rights to the scholarship. The funding shall then be awarded to the runner-up, if that applicant continues to meet all criteria.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of each application:

Grades, Course Work and Test Scores

The applicant must have an overall grade average of "B" or better and have pursued a curriculum that indicates a potential for success in the intended academic or technical program.

Personal Incentive, Volunteerism and Extracurricular Activities

The student should list his/her extracurricular school activities, community involvement and work experience.

Personal or Conservation Essays

These short essays will be assessed according to content and form. The essays play a critical role in helping the screening committee select finalists for the selection process. Applicants are encouraged to spend an adequate amount of time and effort preparing their statements.

Financial Need

In addition to a copy of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) page of the Student Aid Report (SAR) of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a short description of the family and student's ability to fund college-related expenses is required. This information will be kept confidential by GBRA's Selection Committee.

Personal Interview

A Selection Committee chosen by GBRA will interview finalists.

Deadline for Applications

All applications for the GBRA Scholarship Program must be on the official GBRA Application form (additional applications may be downloaded from the web at www.gbra.org). Applications should be submitted by the high school or student. All applications must have the **required 4 copies** and must be received at GBRA's Seguin office by 5 p.m. on **March 31, 2017**. Envelopes should be marked "GBRA Scholarship Application Enclosed" on the outside of the envelope. Applications should be mailed or hand delivered to:

Rebecca Wilson, Scholarship Coordinator
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
933 E. Court St.
Seguin, TX 78155
830-379-5822

GBRA 2017 Scholarship Packet Checklist

These items must be included in your application packet to be considered. No exceptions will be allowed. Use this check-list to confirm your application packet is complete. *Please do not attach this form to your application.*

- Application
- Transcript or Homeschool Equivalent
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Section of Student Aid Report from FAFSA
- Student Essays (2)
- Student Signature
- Parent/Guardian Signature
- Counselor/School Official Signature
- One (1) original and three (3) copies of entire packet

All applications are due back to GBRA no later than **March 31, 2017**. Applications received after March 31 will not be accepted.

Section II: This scholarship exists to help fund the education of students throughout our district who are in a situation of financial need or hardship. The following items assess your experience and current plans for funding your education. This section will be heavily weighted by our scholarship committee. All statements may be subject to follow-up inquiries.

Write a short (1-2 paragraphs) piece that explains why you would benefit from being awarded a scholarship. Consider including sources of financing for education, difficulties you've faced paying for your education, changes in family or personal situation that have added financial hardship, and the opportunities a scholarship will present to your education. Please attach additional sheets if necessary. Applicants are free to attach documents demonstrating need, including FAFSA student aid report.

How much funding do you expect to receive from other scholarships and grants for the upcoming school year?

As a student how much of your own funds do you plan to contribute to your education? _____

Comments regarding your parents, step-parent's or guardian's financial status that may be important for the Selection Committee: _____

Are any of your relatives employed at the school you plan to attend? Yes____ No____

Relationship: _____

Section III: This section considers student commitment to education and the community. Your response will only be used in connection with your application for this program and to develop a brief biographical sketch for publication if you are selected to receive a scholarship.

Which high school courses do you feel have prepared you for college? _____

School activities and honors _____

Community service activities _____

Jobs you have held in the past four years, length of employment and job duties _____

What are your academic and professional goals for the future? _____

Use this space to make other remarks you feel would be helpful to the selecton committee in evaluating you and comparing you with other applicants for a GBRA scholarship _____

Section IV: Essay questions will be evaluated based on content and form. Your essays should be between 250 and 500 words and typed or printed clearly. If chosen, segments of these essays may be used in award recognition publications.

Personal statement describing yourself and why you would like to be considered for a scholarship. _____

Conservation statement. Water conservation is a top priority for GBRA. This includes saving water, keeping water clean and ensuring safe practices to limit pollution across the Guadalupe River watershed. Is conservation important to your community and why? What are some of the ways your community practices conservation? _____

Section V: Please have a counselor/teacher of CHYfgWcc`cZVU` who is familiar with the student's character and scholastic capabilities provide the evaluation requested below.

Note to school official: The above named student is an applicant for a scholarship. To process the application, we need a record of the student's academic performance. This information will be used only in connection with the selection of recipients and will be seen only by qualified persons involved in the selection process.

Name of gWcc`cZVU` providing evaluation _____

Relationship to Student _____ Years Known _____

If teacher, please list subjects taught to student _____

Considering this student's interests, work habits and life goals, please provide your recommendation regarding the student's potential for success in college, university, technical or trade school.

I certify that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

GWcc`CZVU`G[[bUhi fY' _____ SSSSSSSSSSS_ Date: _____

Gh XYbhG[[bUhi fY' _____ SSSSSS_ Date: _____

Section VI: To comply with Federal Privacy Rights of Parents and Students and Students Act, a school must obtain a signed authorization before it can release student information for use in this scholarship program.

Permission is hereby given to school officials to release the school record and other requested information for consideration in the GBRA Scholarship Program.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

After completion of this application, return the original and three (3) copies of entire packet to your counselor. Your packet will include an application, official transcript, two essays, and SAT or ACT scores (if applicable). All applications are due back to GBRA no later than **March 31, 2017**. Applications received after March 31 will not be accepted.