The Spirit of Community Scholarship for Leadership and Community Service

The Spirit of Community Scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who demonstrated leadership skills through a commitment to community service and hopes to pursue a career in Education or Nursing. The Spirit of Community Scholarship is worth up to $15,000 annually, up to four years, and may be used to cover the student’s cost of attendance (tuition, fees, books/materials, room, meal plans, etc.) at any accredited college or university in the state of Montana that awards an associate’s degree or higher. Scholarship will be awarded based on academic achievement, community service involvement, leadership, and financial need.

Eligibility Requirements:
In order to apply for the Spirit of Community Scholarship you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a currently enrolled senior at a Montana GEAR UP high school
- Be on track to complete the MUS college preparatory curriculum upon high school graduation, as evidenced by your 7th semester high school transcript
- Plan to enroll and complete a full-time undergraduate study in either Education or Nursing
- Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Have an ACT composite score of 17 or SAT composite score of 1210
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be Pell Grant eligible as evidenced by your Student Aid Report (SAR) or (have demonstrated financial need)
- Be of American Indian Descent
- Demonstrate leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience
- Show a strong commitment to community service

Application must include:

- Completed The Spirit of Community Scholarship Application, including short answer and essay portions
- Official copy of your 7th semester high school transcript
- Official ACT or SAT scores (scores printed on high school transcripts are permitted)
- Copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Letter of recommendation:
  - Ask one person who is familiar with your plans and abilities (employer, colleague, academic advisor, counselor, teacher, or religious representative) to write a letter of recommendation that highlights your academic abilities, character, leadership ability, commitment to community service, and/or personal achievement.

Renewal Requirements:
In order to continue to receive the scholarship each semester, you must meet the following:

- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), as defined by campus of enrollment
- Must stay continuously enrolled in a Nursing or Education program as a full time student while working towards obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree
- File an annual FAFSA, and have at least $1 of Unmet Need (as calculated by the chosen campus)

Mail completed application to:
Montana GEAR UP
ATTN: Spirit of Community Scholarship
PO Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620-3201

All application materials must be postmarked by April 22nd.

For questions or concerns, please call or email us at (406) 444-0350 or jjones@montana.edu.
The Spirit of Community Scholarship Application

Student Information

Full Name: ________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________ Apt/Unit # __________________________________

City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Home Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: ___________________________

Email Address: ______________________________________________________________

Birthdate: ___________________________ Gender: ________________________________

Social Security Number: ___________________________ Ethnicity: ______________________

Education

High School Currently Attending: ________________________________________________

Which colleges and/or universities have you applied?

1. ________________________________________________________________

2. ________________________________________________________________

3. ________________________________________________________________

4. ________________________________________________________________

What is your intended major(s)? ________________________________________________

What is your intended minor(s)? ________________________________________________

What are your professional aspirations? __________________________________________

Please complete the following information to give us a picture of your overall involvements during your high school years. If necessary, attach an additional piece of paper to include other activities, information, or extenuating circumstances that you feel are pertinent to your application.

Extracurricular Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Years of Participation</th>
<th>Positions/Honors Won</th>
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Community Service Activities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organization</th>
<th># of Hours</th>
<th>Description of Activities</th>
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**Employment History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Hours Per Week</th>
<th>Position Held</th>
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**Short Answer – Community Service**

*Please answer the following prompt in 250 words or less.*

How has your volunteer work positively impacted the community around you and how has your service experience impacted you personally? Please reference the service activities listed on the previous page.

**Short Answer – Leadership**

*Please answer the following prompt in 250 words or less.*

Describe a situation where you took a leadership role, including why you led the project and how you were effective.
Please write an essay of no more than 750 words addressing the prompt below.

Complete an essay which conveys to the reader a sense of who you are and highlight your reasons for pursuing a college education and describe your post-graduation goals. How will these goals contribute to strengthening your community and rural or Native communities as a whole?

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and permit Montana GEAR UP to release relevant public information to scholarship trustee and/or the news media. I authorize my high school and/or other educational institutions to disclose any academic records for propose of confirming my eligibility for this award.

Signature ___________________________ Date __________________

Thank you for completing the Spirit of Community Scholarship Application. In order for your application to be considered complete you must submit the following supplemental application pieces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplemental Application Pieces</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS Transcript</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test Score (ACT or SAT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Aid Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of Recommendation</td>
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Mail completed application to:

Montana GEAR UP
ATTN: Spirit of Community Scholarship
PO Box 203201
Helena, MT 59620-3201

All application materials must be postmarked by March 15th.

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