



The Waukegan Park District is pleased to announce that it will award up to five individual \$1,000 scholarships toward the education of students who live in the District and will be enrolled in college or trade school in the Fall of 2021. The funds to support this program have been secured through private donations and gifts in the District's Memorial Endowment fund to be reinvested back into the community, thereby paving the way for future leaders in our community. With 735 acres of parks and multiple facilities, the District and community has broad skill set needs.

Local students who plan on attending junior or community college, university, or trade school in the Fall of 2021 are eligible. Students who are current or former employees or volunteers with the District are highly encouraged to apply.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Live within the boundaries of Waukegan Park District. (check your tax bill or if you enroll in programs as a resident that is an indicator of residency)
- Student in the community attending a junior or community college, university, or trade school in Fall 2021.
- Pursuing a park and recreation related field including but not limited to parks and recreation, business, accounting, IT, HR, public policy, public relations, forestry, horticulture, environmental science, graphic design, occupational safety, exercise sports science, communications, marketing, and trades (construction, HVAC, electrician, building maintenance).

Applications must include:

- Include one signed letter of recommendation (not from a relative) who is familiar with your future goals and aptitude.
- An academic transcript should be included as part of the application submittal.
- Personal essay (see details below).

Expectation of scholarship recipients:

- Selection preference for applicant that is a current/former part-time employee or volunteer with the Waukegan Park District.
- Community volunteer service, extracurricular activities, honors received, and/or scholastic achievements should be included in list form as an attachment to the application.

#### Expectations of scholarship recipients (continued)

- An interview will be part of the selection process.
- Scholarship recipients may be asked to return and meet with the Waukegan Park District to provide a summary of benefits and share personal experiences as recipients of the scholarship.
- Students who have earned a GED are encouraged to apply.

#### Personal essay submission guidelines:

- 750 words maximum.
- The essay should be original content and describe your interest and experiences with parks, recreation and/or open space preservation, preferably with the Waukegan Park District. Highlight future interests and goals for involvement in these fields.
- State the school you plan to attend in Fall 2021 as well as any work and/or volunteer experience(s) with the Waukegan Park District.
- Essays will be evaluated for content, need, the story you tell, not just grades.
- File format .pdf or Microsoft Word.

Timeline: 3/10/2021 Applications due

3/26/2021 Applicants will be contacted for interviews

5/11/2021 Awards will be announced

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be directed to Ben Richards at 847-360-4729 or [brichards@waukeganparks.org](mailto:brichards@waukeganparks.org)



Due March 10, 2021  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply and provide the date of the credential:

High School Diploma, Date \_\_\_\_\_  Associates Degree, Date \_\_\_\_\_

GED, Date \_\_\_\_\_  Other Certificates \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Have you worked or volunteered for the Waukegan Park District?  Yes  No

If so, when and what area? \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Family Contribution Number (EFC#) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Scholarships and assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of community or junior college, university, or trade school where you plan to enroll in Fall 2021: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned area of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Checklist:

- Personal Essay
- Signed letter of recommendation (not from a relative) who is familiar with your future goals and aptitude
- Academic transcript
- Documented community volunteerism, extracurricular activities, honors received, and/or scholastic achievements. Not required but encouraged.

Deadline to submit applications is **March 10, 2021**. Applications should be submitted via e-mail to:

Ben Richards, [brichards@waukeganparks.org](mailto:brichards@waukeganparks.org)