



2013 OHIO SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

Student Submission Deadline: Friday, March 29, 2013

The Children's Defense Fund Beat the Odds® scholarship program honors, celebrates, and rewards outstanding high school juniors who have overcome tremendous adversity to achieve academic excellence, demonstrate leadership in their community, and aspire to attend college to continue their education.

Nomination:

Scholarship applicants must be nominated by an adult (often a counselor, but not in all cases) who is both willing and able to shepherd the student throughout the application, selection, and award process. In collaboration with the student applicant, the nominator should confirm that the scholarship application packet submitted is complete, meets the eligibility guidelines, and arrives on or before the deadline.

Eligibility:

Nominees for the Beat the Odds Scholarship must meet all of the following criteria:

- Presently a junior enrolled in a public, charter, or alternative high school in Ohio and will graduate by July 2014
- Will attend a college, university, or vocational school in the Fall 2014
- Has achieved a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4 point scale and class ranking which demonstrates academic success
- Has demonstrated community service, volunteerism, and a commitment to leadership development
- Has experienced and overcome adversity such as, but not limited to, poverty, disability, homelessness or abuse
- U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident

Selection:

Scholarship applicants will be evaluated based upon:

- Student Essay
- Two Recommendations
- Academic success as demonstrated by the student's transcript
- Financial need

Scholarship recipients will be expected to share their stories publicly through a brief speech during the Beat the Odds awards dinner in Columbus during the second half of 2013 and in the media. (CDF will provide communications training and speech preparation.) Honorees will also have professional videos filmed of their stories to be aired at the awards presentation and by the Children's Defense Fund elsewhere for the benefit of other young people who are struggling to overcome similar obstacles and to inspire community leaders to help them succeed.

All applicants must be comfortable with telling their story publicly and willing to be videotaped as this will be an expectation of scholarship recipients.

Award:

- Five Ohio recipients will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship paid directly to the student's college, university or vocational school during enrollment; a laptop computer for higher education; and leadership training through the Children's Defense Fund. Additional gifts will also include professional attire and travel expenses for the event.
- Scholarship recipients must agree to and comply with the Terms of the Award and agree to maintain a relationship with the Children's Defense Fund for the duration of the award while they pursue higher education.
- Recipients will be given opportunities to participate in advocacy training, volunteer projects and internships during and after the award period. It is our hope that the Beat the Odds scholarship recipients will continue to be engaged and join with us to encourage, celebrate, reward and mentor others we serve.
- Should the scholarship recipient fail to enroll and continue to attend a college or university as expected or be unable to comply with the Terms of the Award, scholarship monies will be forfeited.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 29, 2013

Applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 29, 2013. NO EXTENSIONS OR EXCEPTIONS.

Application Packet:

- Scholarship Application Form (3 copies)
For applications to be reviewed they must be signed, dated, and social security # must be included.
- Student Essay (3 copies)
Essays must be 1 – 2 pages typed, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, in 12-point font. The student should explain in detail how he or she has overcome adversity and personal challenges in life and yet has achieved academically. Students should share their personal and professional plans, goals, hopes, and dreams for the future. Essays should clearly articulate how all of the eligibility criteria have been met.

It is suggested that students review their essay with their recommender or an adult advisor, counselor or mentor to assure that it sets forth all relevant details and that it is appropriately presented.
- Two Recommendation Forms and Narrative Statements
 - ***Educator Recommendation-*** One recommendation ***must*** be from a teacher
The educator recommendation should speak to the student's academic record, the challenges he or she faced, and observations regarding the student's ability to cope with and manage adversity. Educators should make mention of situations where the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education.
 - ***Community Member-*** The second recommendation ***may*** be from an educator, or a mentor, guidance counselor, coach, clergy member, or employer.
The community member should know the student well and be able to speak to the student's work ethic, challenges, experiences, and motivation to succeed. This recommendation should address how the student faced obstacles and adversity in his or her life, achieved success, participated in volunteer and community service activities, and demonstrated leadership. Additional insight into how the student qualifies for the Children's Defense Fund Beat the Odds scholarship can be offered, as it assists the selection committee in evaluating the student's application.

Applicants may not submit letters of recommendation written by relatives or peers.
- Official High School Transcript

Submission Instructions: Application packets ***must*** include the following: Scholarship Application Form, Student Essay, Recommendation Forms, Narrative Statements, and Official High School Transcripts. Incomplete application packets ***will not*** be considered.

Assemble the application packet in the order listed above. No two-sided copies will be accepted. If mailing the materials, do NOT use staples. The application packet materials can also be scanned in the same order listed above and emailed. No fax submissions will be accepted or reviewed. Completed applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 29, 2013.

Send completed application packet to:

Beat the Odds 2013
Children's Defense Fund—Ohio
395 E. Broad Street, Suite 330
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Inquiries:

Kelly Pratt
BTO@cdfohio.org
www.cdfohio.org



2013 OHIO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Student Submission Deadline: Friday, March 29, 2013

Carefully type or print your information using blue or black ink. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be considered.

Full Name Age Gender Race/Ethnicity

Current Address (include Apartment #) City County State Zip

Permanent Address (if different from Current Address) City County State Zip

Email Address Home Phone Cell Phone

Yes / No

Are you a U.S. Citizen? If "No", are you a Legal Permanent Resident?

I live at home with both parents. I live in a single parent household with my:

Other, Please explain:

Please describe your family's approximate annual income:

Yes / No

Yes / No

Do you have any siblings? If "Yes", how many? What are their ages? Do they all live with you?

/ 4.0

School Name School District GPA Calculated on a 4.0 scale

School Address School County School Phone School Fax

Counselor Name Counselor Email Counselor Phone

Nominator Name (if not Counselor) Nominator Email Nominator Phone

Community Service:

List your most recent volunteer / community service activities:

Blank lines for listing volunteer / community service activities.

List your personal interests and hobbies:

Blank lines for listing personal interests and hobbies.

List your personal and academic goals:

Blank lines for listing personal and academic goals.

Authorization for Applicant's Credential:

In connection with the Children's Defense Fund and its evaluation of my suitability as a scholarship recipient, I hereby verify that all of the information included in this application is true and speaks to my eligibility of applying for this scholarship.

Applications will not be considered without complete information and signature below.

Student Signature

Date Signed

Parent or Guardian Signature (required if student is a minor)

Date Signed

Nominator Signature

Date Signed

Application Packet Checklist:

- Scholarship Application form (3 copies)
- Student Essay (3 copies)
- Educator Recommendation Form and Narrative Statement
- Additional Recommendation Form and Narrative Statement
- Official High School Transcript

Assemble packet in the order listed above. Do not staple; paper or binder clips are acceptable. No two-sided copies. Complete applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 29, 2013.

Incomplete applications and those received after the deadline will not be considered.

Mail to:

Beat the Odds 2013
Children's Defense Fund—Ohio
395 E. Broad Street, Suite 330
Columbus, Ohio 43215



2013 OHIO SCHOLARSHIP *EDUCATOR* RECOMMENDATION COVER FORM

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The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Beat the Odds® Scholarship program honors, celebrates, and rewards outstanding high school juniors who have overcome tremendous adversity to achieve academic excellence, demonstrate leadership in their community, and aspire to attend college to continue their education.

Thank you for your willingness to provide a recommendation for a deserving high school junior for the CDF *Beat the Odds*® Scholarship. **Every scholarship applicant must submit two letters of recommendation with their application.** (Applicants may not submit letters of recommendation written by relatives or peers)

- **Educator Recommendation**- One recommendation **must** be from a teacher.
The educator recommendation should speak to the student's academic record, the challenges he or she faced, and observations regarding the student's ability to cope with and manage adversity. Educators should make mention of situations where the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education.
- **Additional Recommendation**- The second recommendation **may** be from an educator, or a mentor, guidance counselor, coach, clergy member, or employer.
The additional recommender should know the student well and be able to speak to the student's work ethic, challenges, experiences and motivation to succeed. This recommendation should address how the student faced obstacles and adversity in his or her life, achieved success, participated in volunteer and community service activities, and demonstrated leadership. Additional insight into how the student qualifies for the CDF *Beat the Odds* scholarship can be offered, as it assists the selection committee in evaluating the student's application.

Scholarship Applicant: (to be completed by the applicant)

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Recommender: (from this point forward, to be completed by the person providing the recommendation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Length of time you have known the applicant: _____

| Attributes | Compared to peers, this student rates (1) Fair, (2) Solid, (3) High Performing, or (4) Extraordinary. Evaluate the student by circling the appropriate number 1 to 4 | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Academic Motivation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Academic Potential | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Creativity | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Self Discipline | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Leadership | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Initiative | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Reaction to Setbacks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Analytical Ability | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Oral Communication | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Classroom Participation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Communication | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Independence | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Problem Solving | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |
| Overall Impression | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment |

In a general and overall comparison with similar students (age, grade, academic track), you would rank this student within the ___ top 10% ___ top 25% ___ top 50% ___ lower 50% of *that group* of students. *Note: this is not a class ranking.*

Narrative Section: *Please Use Additional Paper (1 - 2 pages in length, 12 pt font, 1-inch margins, single spaced)*

As an educator, please describe the student's academic record, the challenges he or she has faced, and observations regarding the student's ability to cope with and manage adversity. Please make mention of situations where the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education. Please discuss demonstrated leadership skills or potential and any additional personal achievements the student has attained.

Please return both this form and your narrative to the student (you may do so sealed if you wish) for inclusion in his/her application packet. Please **do not** use staples or two-sided copies. The applicant must include letters of recommendation from you and another individual, and the two recommendations may not be submitted separately.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



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