2020 Community Service Scholarship Guidelines

The Desert Financial Community Service Scholarship rewards students who have dedicated exceptional time and effort serving their communities.
A limited number of scholarships valued from $2,500 to $10,000 will be awarded to Arizona graduating high school seniors.

Scholarship Requirements

- Graduating high school senior (spring of 2020)
- 3.00 or higher cumulative GPA
- Plan to attend an Arizona college or university
- Be a current member or a relative of a member
- Provide Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) from FAFSA
- Complete 50 or more hours of community service between 1/1/19 – 12/31/19 (see service criteria qualifications below)

Service vs. Volunteering (Community Service Criteria)

Supporting a variety of volunteer activities to serve others is important; however, not all volunteer hours qualify toward our community service scholarship requirements. Please remember that for this scholarship, we are seeking volunteer service in which you demonstrate leadership and a commitment to transforming communities through your service to others in need. We request **hours only with 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or other qualifying groups**, such as National Honor Society, Girl Scouts, Key Club, Rotary Club, and others as applicable.

The following are examples of service that **would not qualify:**
- Assisting peers, your high school, or neighbors (that have no financial need)
- Playing a role in worship services (as this is a normal course of action in being a member of your worship community)
- Participating in religious-related activities that only benefit the congregation
- Giving time on a political campaign
- Raising funds for a student group or an organization of which you are a member (for the direct benefit of the group participants – trips, activities, events, etc.)

Some of these activities can be explored in different ways to meet the community service requirement for this scholarship. A few eligible activities include: being a peer tutor in a low income school or community; helping your school that lacks resources for activities or programs; supporting a program at your house of worship that helps people of lesser means (not within their membership); civic engagement focused on local community improvement; or raising funds through a student group to benefit an external non-profit (food drive, cards for Veterans, diaper drive, charity fundraisers, etc.).

Application Process
Before you start your application, there are a few things you should know. First, the application does not save and allow you to come back later to complete. You will need to have all of your information ready before you

start so you can complete the process in one sitting. Second, if you are selected to move on in the selection process, you will be sent an email between March 1st and March 15th asking for additional information. This will include a certified transcript as well as your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) amount from your FAFSA. We will also be contacting the volunteer coordinators for certification of your service hours and feedback on your service. Finally, please review the checklist below before starting your application.

Application Checklist

*The following is a list of items you should gather or know **before starting your application.***

General:
- ❑ High school street address and zip
- ❑ Cumulative GPA (unweighted)
- ❑ In-state college choices
- ❑ Combined household income
- ❑ Names and amounts of other scholarships you've applied for

Community Service Activities

You'll be asked to provide the following info for your volunteering efforts at all qualified organizations. Combined volunteer hours must be equal to or greater than 50 hours across all organizations. Qualifying organizations must be designated as a 501(c)3 and qualified volunteer time must meet criteria found in "Service vs. Volunteering" section (above).
- ❑ Name and Address of the Organization(s)
- ❑ Activities Performed
- ❑ Population Served
- ❑ Total Hours Performed
- ❑ Supervisor Name, Email and Phone

Important Reminders

Please gather all the information needed before starting the online application – partial applications cannot be saved.

Applications must be submitted by **March 1, 2020.**