

Scholarship Description

There is up to \$1,500 available to individuals that demonstrate they volunteered their talent and provided exceptional service to the Special Olympics Howard County.

About the Schnorf Special Olympics Scholarship

The Schnorf family wishes to encourage and recognize high school volunteers in the Howard County Special Olympics program. Special Olympics Howard County provides a year-round training and competitive sports program for Howard County children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Members of the Schnorf family have participated in Special Olympics for over 20 years in a variety of roles, including as a participating athlete, high school volunteer, unified athlete, coach, and Howard County Special Olympics management team member. The entire Schnorf family recognizes the benefits their daughter Julia receives from her participation in Special Olympics and the importance that high school volunteers play in supporting the Special Olympics program.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates for the ***Schnorf Family Special Olympics Volunteer Scholarship*** must:

1. Be one of the following:
 - a. A current high school senior in a Maryland or
 - b. A “gap year” student that has applied for and plans on attending college the following semester or
 - c. Currently enrolled in a Maryland college undergraduate program and volunteered for Special Olympics Howard County within the last 12-months;
2. Be able to demonstrate volunteer service with the Special Olympics Howard County;
3. Be able to demonstrate how their experience as a volunteer changed their personal perspective on life and on being an advocate for individuals with special needs; and,
4. Plan to attend a two- or four-year college/university or trade school.

Application Materials

Applications for the ***Schnorf Family Special Olympics Volunteer Scholarship*** must include:

1. A complete and signed application form;
2. A response to the following questions/statements, using examples drawn from their life experience and which are not present in their resume:
 - a. Describe what your involvement in Special Olympics Howard County has meant to you and the impact it has had on your life;

3. A resume that outlines the applicants volunteer history with Special Olympics Maryland and/or Special Olympics Howard County; and,
4. One confidential letter of recommendation from a Special Olympics coach or Sports Coordinator.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all components of the application are submitted by the due date.

Evaluation Criteria

An external committee, in compliance with Foundation policy, will recommend awardees to the Community Foundation of Howard County for final review and approval. All applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Compliance with eligibility criteria
2. Essay Questions
3. Special Olympics volunteer history
4. Confidential letter of recommendation
5. General Impression

Award Notification and Acceptance

The Foundation will provide applicants with updates and award decisions via the online application system.

The selected applicant will receive a certificate and, upon receipt by the Foundation of the required materials, the scholarship will be sent to the accredited institution.

Questions

The Community Foundation of Howard County can address questions about this scholarship program.

About the Community Foundation of Howard County

Founded in 1969 as The Columbia Foundation, the Community Foundation of Howard County has awarded more than \$17 million in grants to Howard County nonprofit organizations delivering human service, arts and cultural, educational and civic programs. Money for the grant programs comes primarily from income generated by the Foundation's endowment supported by more than 300 funds established by Howard County businesses, families and individuals.