

Scholarship Description

There is up to \$1,500 available to individuals, enrolled in a Maryland high school or college undergraduate program, that demonstrate they volunteered their talent and provided exceptional service to the Special Olympics Howard County Swim Team.

About Allan Homes Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarship

This scholarship was established in recognition of Allan Waschak, father of Special Olympian Michael Waschak, who has dedicated over 20 years of service to the Special Olympics of Howard County Swim Team. Under the capable tutelage of Mr. Waschak, the swim team has grown from eight athletes and four adult coaches, to one of the largest Special Olympics Swim Teams in the United States, with over 100 Special Olympics athletes, ten adult coaches, and nearly fifty teenage volunteers and Unified Partners.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates for the **Allan Homes Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarship** must:

1. Be enrolled in a Maryland:
 - a. public or private high school as a graduating senior or
 - b. college undergraduate program and currently volunteering for Special Olympics Howard County;
2. Be able to demonstrate a minimum of three years of volunteer service with the Special Olympics Howard County as a swim volunteer;
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 **Allan Homes Outstanding Student 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; and,
 - b. Describe your career goals and how you may advocate in the future for individuals with special needs;

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 swim coach.

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.