The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION

DEADLINE: March 15, 2020

Details of the Awards

- Two $4,500 college scholarships are available annually.
- One-year scholarships are available to juniors, seniors and graduate students pursuing a Master's Degree.
- Sophomores may make application for their junior year.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Must be a US Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident of the United States.
- International or Foreign Exchange Students are not eligible.
- Doctoral program students are not eligible.
- Must be attending school full-time as defined by GCI.
    - Undergraduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 graded hours of classes.
    - Graduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of 9 graded hours of classes.
- Study abroad on fellowships or internships are not eligible; funds may be applied to studies overseas provided that the study is a condition of the recipient's degree plan and that payment continues to be made to the accredited U.S. college or university.
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale).
- Must be planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture.
- Must be **majoring** in one of the following fields of study:

- Agronomy
- Agriculture Education
- Floriculture
- Horticulture
- Landscape Design
- Botany, Biology
- Forestry
- Plant Pathology/Science
- City (Rural & Urban) Planning
- Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology
- Environmental Concerns (Management: Environmental, Horticulture Resource/Environmental Behavior)
- Environmental Conservation (inc. Engineering, etc.
- Wildlife Science
- Land Management and/or other related or allied subjects

Selection Criteria

- All applications received by March 15th will be judged by the Scholarship Chairman and a committee in order to choose two winning applications.
- The following Scale of Points will be used for the evaluation of each application:

Academic Record	**40%**
Applicant's Letter	**30%**
Listing of Honors/Extracurricular Activities/Work Experience	**10%**
Financial Need	**15%**
Recommendations	**5%**

- Winners will be notified in writing of the committee's decision immediately following the judging.

Description of Funds

- Checks for the winning applicant's scholarship will be mailed by late July from GCI Headquarters to the Financial Aid Office. No funds will be sent directly to the student.
- All funds will be distributed by the Financial Aid Office according to the particular school's term-system, unless the student has only one term remaining before the completion of the degree.
- In the event of a change in a student's major to one other than those listed above, or if the student withdraws from school, the balance of the funds must be returned to the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.
- The student and Financial Aid Officer will determine how the money is to be spent: tuition, food, housing, books, etc.

Application Procedure

- The following documents must be submitted:
    1. GCI Scholarship Application Form
    2. Financial Aid Form
    3. Complete official academic transcripts
    4. Letter from applicant
    5. List of extracurricular activities, honors, recognitions within the last three years
    6. Two letters of recommendation
- All of the documents must be mailed by the applicant **in one large envelope.** Do not place the documents in page protectors, in any sort of permanent binder or staple the pages.
- Applications must be mailed to the State Scholarship Chairman. The address is on the application form.
- Deadline: Received by March 15th.
- When a student reapplies for a scholarship (whether the applicant is or is not a previous winner) a complete new and updated application must be submitted.

Instructions for Filling out Application

- All forms must be typed or computer generated.

Application Form		• GCI Application Form must be used • **ALL** fields completed
Financial Aid Form		• Must be complete with all questions answered • Signed by student and Financial Aid Officer • If Financial Aid information is not available before the application deadline, information from the previous academic year may be used with the notation that it is an estimate based on the previous year
Transcripts		• **Official** academic transcripts • Transcripts must include the latest grading period • Graduate students must include undergraduate transcripts
Letter	Limit – 2 pages	• Discuss background, future goals, financial need, future career goals
List of Activities	Limit – 2 pages	• List to include only items for the **last 3 years** • Students returning to school after an absence can list work experience and activities
Letters of Recommendation	Limit – 2 letters Limit – 1 page each	• Discuss scholastic ability, personal character, work-related experience