

OEA / OPC Building A Better World Scholarship



“Our world is a neighborhood. We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish as fools. For I submit, nothing will be done until people put their bodies and souls into this.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Three scholarships are awarded annually, based on personal essays, dealing with the following topics:

1 - Global Awareness. 2 - Community Involvement. 3 - Independent Travel.

About:

Founded in 2003, the Building A Better World Scholarship has handed out over \$40,000 in scholarships and travel stipends to Oakridge graduating seniors. Co-sponsored by the Oakridge Education Association and Oakridge Parent Club, it is further endowed through donations from Oakridge teachers, Community members, local businesses, and past scholarship winners. Award winners are determined by a panel of donors, consisting of teachers, Parent Club representatives, and past scholarship winners.

Eligibility:

Any graduating Oakridge High School senior may apply for one, two, or all three of the individual scholarships. Monetary awards for scholarships one and two may be used for any post high school studies. The award can go for books, tuition, or the purchase of a computer. Your award will be held at OHS until you enroll in classes. You do not need to attend college to win the Independent Travel Scholarship. However, in order to receive cash stipend you must provide detailed documentation of itinerary, lodging, and travel. Airline and hotel costs will be reimbursed upon issuance of receipts. You must travel within fifteen months of winning the scholarship to earn travel stipend.

Beginning with the OHS graduating class of 2017 if you win the Global Awareness or Community Involvement scholarship, and are also eligible for the Muskegon Promise Scholarship (which is a final payment scholarship), we will provide you the scholarship award in the form of a check to you personally upon proof of enrollment at either MCC or Baker. If sent to school it would reduce your Promise Scholarship by the same amount.

Early College Applicants:

If you are an early college student, apply with your original OHS graduating class.

Application Process:

Please use Word or Google Docs format, and email your submission to bwood@oakridgeschools.org by the announced due date. Personal Information noted below must be included on a cover page attached to essay submission (s). Make sure that you receive email confirmation validating your submission. If you do not receive confirmation please check with Mr. Wood

Information to be included on title page submission - one time only if applying for multiple scholarships. Provide your name, date of submission, personal and school email addresses, and the scholarship (s) you are applying for.

Deadlines:

The deadline for the 2016 Building A Better World Scholarship essays is May 1, 2016. The final total cash award will be determined by dividing all donations into three scholarships. **We expect the total award for 2016 to be between \$1750 and \$2000 per scholarship.**

General Requirements

Please use 1 inch margins. 12 point font. Single spacing. Each of the three scholarship topics requires a separate essay submission. Please submit your essays to Mr Wood at bwood@oakridgeschools.org by the scholarship deadline. You may submit in Word or in Google Docs. Make sure that you receive a confirmation following your submission. Typical essay answers run the length of one to two pages, however there is no set page requirement.

Scholarship 1 - Global Awareness

As Dr King stated, if we are to survive in this global neighborhood, we must learn to live together. That means we must seek to truly understand one another. Your essay should deal with our responsibilities, as members of the human race, to comprehend the cultures that surround us. Outline your philosophy and life plans in regards to the significance of Global Awareness.

Part One - Personal Philosophy

Suggested guidelines: What is your philosophy of the importance of being globally aware. What responsibility do we have to understand the lives and values of foreign cultures? How does our awareness of all peoples make this a better world?

Part Two - Your Life Plan

What do you plan to do at a personal level, on a volunteer basis, or within your career, in the short term and in the long term, in order to best achieve your personal philosophy in regards to global awareness?

Scholarship 2 - Community Involvement

Caring starts at home. We must work together to make our communities safer, more compassionate, and ultimately more livable. Through volunteer work and personal commitment, individuals can make a lasting and real difference in their community. Outline your history, philosophy, and life plans in regards to Community involvement.

Part One - Personal Philosophy

Suggested guidelines: What is the significance of community volunteer agencies. What kind of role can an individual play in creating a better community. How significant is the concept of volunteerism?

Part Two - Your Life Plan

What do you plan to do at a personal level, on a volunteer basis, or within your career, in the short term and in the long term, in order to best achieve your personal philosophy regarding Community Involvement. You should also document your previous experiences in regards to community involvement.

Scholarship 3 - Independent Travel

Travel opens your eyes. You gain access to cultures, people, places; all experiences, which help you to shape a healthier global perspective. This scholarship will recognize a well-written travel philosophy and provide a limited refund for an independent road trip. You do not have to plan to enroll in post high school studies to win this award..

Part One - Personal Philosophy

Suggested guidelines: What is the role of travel in shaping personal world perceptions. What is the role of travel in creating a more globally aware community. You may reflect on past experience, and life goals for this portion of the essay.

Part Two - Your Travel Plans

Outline a road trip that you plan to take. Note general dates, travel partners, reasons for going, why you have chosen your destination. Your trip can be of any length or time. The more organized your itinerary, the more credence your essay will be given. This must be your trip, not a family trip, but you may take a parent. You may take a friend. The itinerary must be determined and written by you.

If you win any of the three scholarships we hope that you would donate in the following years, even if that donation is \$10 a year. It is important to us that we connect past winners with those in the future. We also invite you to join us in participating on the selection committee for future scholarship winners.