

SparkYouth Scholars Educational Supplies Scholarship Policy



Below you will find the policies and procedures for the *SparkYouth NYC* Educational Supply Scholarship (the "Scholarship") that will be awarded to recipients meeting the eligibility and selection criteria set forth below. All Scholarships will be administered by *SparkYouth NYC, Inc.* ("*SparkYouth*") pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined below.

CREATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SparkYouth NYC is a nonprofit organization that ignites growth in community-based programs to expand opportunities for the young people of New York City. We work with emerging youth organizations at a critical stage of their development. Our long-term financial and organizational support of these programs helps ensure their exponential growth. These organizations provide crucial opportunities and essential skills to young people and help transform lives.

In furthering this purpose, *SparkYouth* has allocated funds for the establishment of an educational supplies scholarship to be awarded on an annual basis to former or current participants of *SparkYouth's* current member organizations. The amount and number of Scholarships awarded will depend on *SparkYouth's* annual budget.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PURPOSE

The Scholarship amounts for the academic year commencing in Fall 2022 are anticipated to be \$1,500. This range may, however, be varied by *SparkYouth* at its discretion.

At this time funds are only available to students who will be first-year college or trade school students matriculating in the fall of 2022.

The Scholarship must be used only for the purchase of textbooks, a laptop computer, tablet, software and other educational supplies ("Supplies"). It is important that the Scholarship only be used for the Supplies so that the recipient is not subject to taxation on the Scholarship amount received.

SparkYouth would like to use its *SparkYouth* Scholars' stories for promotional and fundraising purposes and will ask them to acknowledge a publicity release in the Scholarship Acceptance Letter and Agreement when the scholarship is distributed. It will provide the recipients with the opportunity to opt-out of such publicity release.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Educational Supplies Scholarship, applicants must:

- (a) currently participate or have participated in one of *SparkYouth's* current member organizations;
- (b) been accepted to and plan to attend a two or four-year college or university, vocational or trade school or other institute of post-secondary education in the fall of 2022;
- (c) have a demonstrated need for financial assistance;
- (d) not have received another grant covering all required educational supplies for the relevant academic year; and
- (e) not be a family member of any person connected to *SparkYouth*.

Otherwise eligible under the above an applicant will not be excluded from eligibility based on academic performance, nationality, or immigration status.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

To be considered for a Scholarship, the applicant must submit an online application and supporting documentation no later than May 20th. The complete scholarship application consists of the following:

- (a) The Scholarship Application (in Part II) submitted online.
- (b) An explanation of financial need and anticipated funding arrangements for College.
- (c) Details of the College to which the applicant has applied and, if available at the time of the application, a letter of acceptance to the College or confirmation of enrollment. If the letter of acceptance or confirmation of enrollment is not available at the time of application, then it must instead be provided at the time the scholarship is accepted by the recipient.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

Scholarship selection will be based on the following factors:

- (a) meeting each of the eligibility criteria set out above;
- (b) the strength of the Scholarship Application in Part II;
- (c) following compliance with (a), (b) and (c) above, financial need and demonstrated effort in responding to the questions in the Scholarship Application.

The Scholarship will be open to any applicant regardless of citizenship or immigration status meeting the requirements contained in this document and recipients will not be pre-selected in any way. Selection of the Scholarship recipients will be made by a *SparkYouth* committee in an objective and non-discriminatory fashion.

ACCEPTANCE LETTER AND PAYMENT

Following assessment of the applications, *SparkYouth* will issue a letter of agreement to each Scholarship recipient confirming selection, setting out the terms of the Scholarship, and requesting the recipient's agreement. If a letter of acceptance to the recipient's intended College or confirmation of enrollment was not included with the application, the recipient must provide an acceptance letter to *SparkYouth* at this time.

SparkYouth will send a check in the Scholarship amount to the address provided by the recipient once we receive a copy of the signed Scholarship Acceptance Letter.

CONFIRMATION OF PURCHASES

All Scholarship funds must be used by March 30th, 2023. Recipients will be required to submit receipts and details of the purchases made to *SparkYouth* as soon as all Scholarship funds are spent and no later than March 30th, 2023.

If *SparkYouth* does not receive receipts the recipient will not be eligible to receive any future Scholarships from *SparkYouth*.

TIMING OVERVIEW

The Scholarship process will proceed according to the following timeline:

- Scholarship Information and Application released to potential recipients – April 21st

- Scholarship Applications accepted – April 21st – May 20th
- Scholarship Acceptance Letter and Agreements sent to selected recipients – June 20th
- Scholarship funds released to recipients – June 28th