



2019 Dare to Dream Scholarship Program

Applications for the **2019 Dare to Dream Scholarship** are being accepted between **February 1 and April 5, 2019**. Applicants must meet the stated eligibility criteria and complete all the requested documentation by the stated deadline. Past *Dare to Dream* Scholars who received a 1-year scholarship are eligible to reapply as long as they still meet the current scholarship program requirements. Scholarships will be awarded at an annual celebration event to be held May 9, 2019.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Applicants must meet **all** the following requirements for their application to be considered for a scholarship award.

- Current or Former Foster Youth Living or have lived in Northern California **OR** a *Volunteers of America* client, former client, or child of a present or past client
- Be 24 Years Old or Younger by April 1, 2019
- Be a 2019 Graduating High School Student or has already earned a high school diploma or GED
- Accepted or expects to be accepted to an Accredited 4-year College/University, Community College or Vocational Program
- Current GPA of 2.0 or Higher
- Past *Dare to Dream* Scholars Who Received A One-Year Scholarship Are Eligible to Reapply**

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

To be considered for a scholarship award, submission must include **all** the required documents listed below. Review the instructions about each document within the application.

- Completed Application Form
- A Photo of Applicant
- Current Copy of Academic Transcript
- Personal Statement
- Signed and Dated Release Forms
- Verification of Foster Care Status Letter **OR** proof of being a VOA client or child of client
- Two letters of Recommendation

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DEADLINE:

Post-Marked or Hand Delivered By **April 5, 2019** to **Cynthia Shane Smith, Volunteers of America, Dare to Dream Scholarship, 3434 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821**. *You can also scan and email the paperwork to csmith@voa-ncnn.org*. Only qualified and completed applications received by the deadline will be scored by our Scholarship Review Committee to be recommended for an award.

For application questions or assistance, contact Cynthia Shane Smith at 510.325.1107.

Application Form

Please type or print. Use additional paper if needed.

Name: _____ Male Female

Date of Birth: _____ Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____

Attach A Recent Formal/Portrait Photo

Minimal size 2 ½ x 3 ½, and a color photo. The photo will be used in the *Dare to Dream* Scholarship award announcement, if you are selected.

Academic

Current School: _____

Current Grade Level or Year in College: _____

College Major: _____

Provide the following for the College/Universities/Vocational Programs you attended or applied to.

School Name & City, ST	Intended Major	Date Applied	Status of Application	Dates of Attendance

Please list other scholarships, grants or financial aid you have applied for or received this year:

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Foster Care Experience (IF NOT APPLICABLE, PLEASE CONTINUE TO PART C, ON PAGE 5)

What City were you born in? _____ What City where you raised in? _____

What County held your Foster Care Case? _____

What age(s) did you enter into Foster Care? _____

While in foster care, how many places did you live? _____

Total Years in Foster Care: _____

Select your current Foster Care status: Foster Home Group Home AB12/Aftercare Emancipated

Other: _____

Transcript & Personal Statement Section

Current Academic Transcript Attached in Application

- To qualify for a *Dare to Dream* Scholarship, applicants must hold a current GPA of 2.0 or higher. To show a qualified GPA, attach the your most recent academic transcript.
- For current High School students attach your full high school transcript.
- For current College Students attach your grades from 1st semester, 2nd quarter or fall term. If you are not currently enrolled in school, please attach your last completed academic year transcript. It is not required to be a sealed official transcript, a copy is fine.

Personal Statement: *Minimum 500 word typed essay*

In a formal essay, share your goals and aspirations and the steps you are going to take to achieve them. Describe how foster care (or your family challenges if you are not a foster youth) has influenced/affected your goals and aspirations. Describe a personal or academic barrier you have overcome or are still working on overcoming. Share what your motivation is to overcome these barriers. Tell us why continuing your education is important to you and how you would benefit if you received a *Dare to Dream* Scholarship.

(Reapplying scholars are to complete a new essay specific for reapplying scholars described below.)

Essay For Reapplying Scholars: *Minimum 500 word typed essay*

Share how the past *Dare to Dream* Scholarship impacted your personal, academic, and career goals, achievements and aspirations this past year. Tell us about a personal or academic barrier that you had to overcome this past year, what steps you took to overcome it, and what motivated you to overcome it. Also, share an academic achievement from this past year. Please include a copy of your personal statement from the year you were awarded a *Dare to Dream* Scholarship.

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Release Forms

Part A: Application Information

I, _____ (applicant name) certify that the information in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I understand and agree that misstatements on my application will cause forfeiture of my scholarship.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Part B: Personal Information Release

I, _____ (applicant name) grant permission to the Volunteers of America Foster Youth Program to use my *Dare to Dream* Scholarship Application Packet, including the photographs and application essays/writings, in print, electronic media, and other forms of publicity.

Please note that the Volunteers of America Dare to Dream Scholarship Program will not for any reason publish or advertise any applicant's date of birth, social security number, or financial aid information.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Verification of Foster Care Status Form

FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE APPLYING THROUGH A FAMILY MEMBER'S PARTICIPATION IN A VOLUNTEER OF AMERICA PROGRAM, PLEASE SKIP THIS SECTION AND CONTINUE TO PART C ON PAGE 5

Instructions: The applicant must complete Part A of this form and send the form to their current or former social worker. The social worker will complete Part B and letter to verify the applicant's foster care status. The letter can be sent to the applicant or directly to the Volunteers of America Dare to Dream Scholarship Program staff. **Applicants, make sure you give your social worker enough time to complete a letter before the application is due.**

Part A:

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

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By signing below, the applicant stated above gives permission for _____
(name of social worker) to release the information requested in the *Dare to Dream* Scholarship
application verification of foster care status form.

Applicant's signature _____ **Date** _____

Include this form and the letter from your social worker in your Scholarship application packet.
(If needed, your social worker can send the letter directly to the Volunteers of America Dare to Dream
Scholarship Program)

Part B:

Dear Social Worker,

The youth named above is applying for the Volunteers of America *Dare to Dream* Scholarship. For
eligibility screening, please attach a signed letter on agency letterhead documenting the applicant's dates
of foster care entrance, foster care exit, current status and any other information you would find helpful in
verify the applications foster care status. Applications are due by April 5, 2019 and this letter is a required
document. Please return this form and your letter to the student or send directly to Volunteers of America
Dare to Dream Scholarship Program, Attention Cynthia Shane Smith, 3434 Marconi Avenue,
Sacramento, CA 95821 for inclusion in the applicant's scholarship application. If you have any questions
regarding the letter or the scholarship, please call Cynthia Shane Smith at 510.325.1107.

Thank you for your support of this student.

Part C: This is to be completed if you or a family member are a participant in a Volunteers of America program

Verification of program participation at Volunteers of America (VOA)

Instructions: The applicant must complete this form completely. We will be contacting the VOA
program staff for confirmation that you or a family member have been part of a VOA program.

VOA staff contact information: _____

Name of Family Member who was VOA program
participant: _____

Participant's relationship to student: _____

VOA Program: _____

Family Member's Phone Number(s):

Family Member's Email Address:

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Letter of Recommendation #1

Two letters of recommendation are required for the Dare to Dream Scholarship. Letters can be from an adult who knows the applicant and is familiar with their personal and academic journey. Examples of qualified recommenders are a teacher, counselor, social worker, mentor, advocate, church leader, or coach.

Instructions: The applicant must complete Part A and then send the page to his/her chosen recommender to complete Part B and write a letter of recommendation. **Applicants, make sure you give your recommender enough time to complete a letter before the application is due.**

Part A (to be completed by the Applicant)

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Part B (to be completed by the Recommender)

Dear Recommender,

The youth named above has requested your recommendation to be included in their application for the Volunteers of America *Dare to Dream* Scholarship. Your evaluation of the applicant will be used in the scoring process by the Scholarship Review Committee. Please return this form and your letter to the student or send directly to the, for inclusion in their application packet. Applications are due by April 5, 2019. If you have any questions please call Cynthia Shane Smith at 510.325.1107.

Recommender Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Company / Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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Letter of Recommendation #2

Two letters of recommendation are required for the Dare to Dream Scholarship. Letters can be from an adult who knows the applicant and is familiar with their personal and academic journey. Examples of qualified recommenders are a teacher, counselor, social worker, mentor, advocate, church leader, or coach.

Instructions: The applicant must complete Part A and then send the page to his/her chosen recommender to complete Part B and write a letter of recommendation. **Applicants, make sure you give your recommender enough time to complete a letter before the application is due.**

Part A (to be completed by the Applicant)

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Part B (to be completed by the Recommender)

Dear Recommender,

The youth named above has requested your recommendation to be included in their application for the Volunteers of America *Dare to Dream* Scholarship. Your evaluation of the applicant will be used in the scoring process by the Scholarship Review Committee. Please return this form and your letter to the student or send directly to Volunteers of America, Dare to Dream Scholarship Program, Attention: Cynthia Shane Smith, 3434 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821, or scanned to csmith@voa-nonn.org, for inclusion in their application packet. Applications are due by April 5, 2019. If you have any questions please call Cynthia Shane Smith at 510.325.1107.

Recommender Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Company / Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____