

Dare to Dream Scholarship Program 2024-2025

Applications for the 2024-2025 Dare to Dream Scholarship are being accepted between March 5th and April 19th, 2024. 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 scholarship are eligible to reapply as long as they still meet the current scholarship eligibility requirements. Scholarships will be awarded by the first week of June, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Applicants must meet ALL of 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 Northern Nevada OR a Volunteer of America client, former client, or child of a present or past client
- Be a 2024 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

DEADLINE:

Applications and all required documents are due by April 19th, 2024 at 5 p.m. PT. The Dare to Dream Scholarship Program Team will notify recipients within 60 days of the application deadline of status of their application. Incomplete packets will not be reviewed.

Submit completed application packets electronically to Ralph Tilson at (voascholarships@gmail.com) with ALL required documents (separate attachments) listed below in ONE email. Only qualified and completed applications received by the deadline will be reviewed by VOA's Scholarship Review Committee.

For application questions or assistance, contact Ralph Tilson at voascholarships@gmail.com

Required Attachments

□ **Application Form (Page 3)**

□ **Release Form (Page 4)**

□ **Verification of Foster Care Status Form (Page 5)**

Note: This form is only needed if you are a current or former foster youth.

□ **Verification Letter from Foster Care Social Worker**

Note: This letter is only needed if you are a current or former foster youth.

□ **Verification of Program Participation at Volunteers of America Form (Page 6)**

Note: This form is not needed if you are a current or former foster youth.

□ **Letter of Recommendation (Page 7)**

□ **Recent Formal/Portrait Photo**

Minimum size 2 ½ x 3 ½. (The photo will be used in the Dare to Dream Scholarship award announcement, if you are selected.)

□ **Current Academic Transcript**

- 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 the 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 re-applying 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.

Application Form

Student Information

Name: _____ Male Female

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

Email: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____

Academic

Current School: _____

Current Grade Level or Year in College: _____

College Major: _____

Provide the following for the College/Universities/Vocational Programs you attend or will attend.

School Name & City, State	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:

Foster Care Experience (If Applicable)

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 _____

Did your family ever receive service from VOA? Yes No

Release Form

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: _____

Personal Information Release

I, _____ (applicant name) grant permission to Volunteers of America to use my Dare to Dream Scholarship Application Packet, including the photographs and application essay 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

- *Verification is not needed for students who have already received the scholarship.*
- *For applicants who are applying through a family member's participation in a Volunteers of America program, please skip this section and continue to page 6.*

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 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: _____

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 19th, 2024 and this letter is a required document. Please return this form and your letter to the student or scan and email directly to Volunteers of America Dare to Dream Scholarship Program Team at voascholarships@gmail.com for inclusion in the applicant's scholarship application. If you have any questions regarding the letter or the scholarship, please email Ralph Tilson at voascholarships@gmail.com . Thank you for your support of this student.

Verification of program participation at Volunteers of America

(For former foster youth applicants, please skip this section and continue to page 7.)

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: _____

Letter of Recommendation

One letter of recommendation is 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 Volunteer 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 scan and email directly to Volunteers of America, Dare to Dream Scholarship Program/ Lauren Anderson at voascholarships@gmail.com for inclusion in their application packet. Applications are due by April 19th, 2024.

If you have any questions, please email Ralph Tilson at voascholarships@gmail.com

Recommender Name: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Company / Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____