LA MIRADA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada, California 90638 (562) 943-0131

Bob Jenkins Community Scholarship Application
Due Wednesday, April 6, 2016

The La Mirada Community Foundation is seeking scholarship applications for graduating high school seniors residing in La Mirada. The scholarships vary in amount, and are intended to provide financial assistance to students planning to attend a university, college, or community college.

Applicants are responsible to write an essay (approximately 500 words or more) reflecting on the value of community services and discussing their personal involvement in community service work as well as the impact this has had on you and your community.

Students must reside in the City of La Mirada and submit residency proof (utility bill, etc.).

Please complete this application and submit it along with the required Personal Statement to the La Mirada Community Foundation for consideration by the deadline of April 6, 2016. All required documents must reach the La Mirada Community Foundation Scholarship Committee no later than April 6, 2016. You may submit by mail at:

Mail to:

La Mirada Community Foundation
Attn: Scholarship Committee
13700 La Mirada Boulevard
La Mirada, CA 90638

SECTION 1 – APPLICANT INFORMATION

Contact Information

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

_____

E-mail address: _____

Primary phone: _____

Secondary phone: _____

Educational History (List most recent first)

Name & Location of Institution	Major Subjects	Date From	Date To

Employment Experience (List most recent first)

Employer	Title or Type of Work	Date From	Date To

Volunteer Service (List most recent first)

Organization	Title or Type of Service	Date From	Date To

Leadership Experience (List most recent first)

Organization	Office or Position	Date From	Date To

Proposed Institutions of Higher Education

Name of institution 1 _____
Major Course of Study _____
Location _____

Name of institution 2: _____
Major Course of Study _____
Location _____

SECTION 2 – REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – Please check for each item.

____**1. COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM**

____**2. PERSONAL ESSAY: Attach to this application an essay of one to two typed pages stating how this scholarship will help you advance your career goals and benefit the community at large. (See sample essay in packet)**

____**3. SIGNED APPLICANT'S AGREEMENT: Form attached.**

____**4. SUBMIT PROOF OF LA MIRADA RESIDENCY** (Utility bill).

____**5. TWO (2) RECOMMENDATIONS:** Submit attached letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, or employment supervisor with your application.

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RECOMMENDATION

Name of Applicant _____

PART II — To be completed by an academic instructor or employer/supervisor.

1. In what capacity and how long have you known the applicant?

2. How firm is the applicant's commitment to his/her proposed field of study?

3. In what way would a La Mirada Community Foundation scholarship contribute to the applicant's academic or professional development?

4. How would you rate the applicant in the following areas? If you are unable to evaluate an area, please leave it blank.

	Excellent	Very Good	Average	Below Average
Leadership				
Initiative				
Seriousness of purpose				
Enthusiasm				
Adaptability				
Maturity				
Emotional stability				
Public speaking				
Community service				

5. Please cite specific examples of how the applicant has demonstrated the qualities listed in question 4.

6. Additional comments:

Name _____ Title or Position _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Please return completed evaluation to the applicant or by mail before April 6, 2016 to:

La Mirada Community Foundation
Attention: Scholarship Committee
13700 La Mirada Boulevard
La Mirada, CA 90638

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La Mirada Community Foundation
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13700 La Mirada Boulevard
La Mirada, CA 90638

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I hereby apply for a La Mirada Community Foundation Scholarship:

If I receive a scholarship, I agree:

1. To help permit La Mirada Community Foundation to use my name and all photographs and written reports generated through any of my activities related to my scholarship.

2. That I am responsible for gaining admission at my assigned study institution. I must abide by any decisions made by La Mirada Community Foundation officials concerning my scholarship.

3. That I am expected to embrace La Mirada Community Foundation's spirit of volunteerism and engage in volunteer activities from the time of scholarship application, through the educational term, to a post-award commitment in my local community.

4. That my scholarship will not necessarily enable me to earn a degree, diploma, or certificate.

5. That the scholarship funding is for only those items required for my studies (such as tuition and other required fees, books, academic supplies, travel to my study location at the commencement and end of my scholarship year, accommodation and food.) I further understand that I will need to seek alternate sources of funding if my costs exceed this amount.

6. That La Mirada Community Foundation are in no way liable for a scholar's personal welfare or responsible for enabling a scholar to pursue his or her studies beyond the scholarship period. The La Mirada Community Foundation assumes no responsibility or obligation whatsoever beyond providing the amount of the scholarship.

7. All applicants agree that decisions of the La Mirada Community Foundation Scholarship Committee are final. To receive the award, recipients agree to authorize release of scholarship application materials and photograph for use by the La Mirada Community Foundation program promotion and publicity. Applicants agree to release, discharge and hold harmless La Mirada Community Foundation and their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors and employees, from any and all claims or damages arising out of, in any way, their participation in the program. La Mirada Community Foundation reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program. Questions about the application process may be directed to the La Mirada Community Foundation Committee at (562) 943-0131.

_____
Name of Applicant (please print)

_____ _____
Applicant's Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent or Guardian Signature for Applicant <18 years Print Parent or Guardian Name

[Sample Student Name]

[Sample] Personal Statement for La Mirada Community Foundation Scholarship

I started tenth grade three years ago after my family moved to the United States from Mexico. I had to face the problems of not knowing the language or how the education system worked. I felt alone. Everything was different from my country. I could not express myself with the people around me. Often I felt frustrated. Many people told me that graduating would be hard for me because I did not know the language and was just starting to learn English.

Instead of being upset about this comment, it motivated me to study hard and to get good grades. My goal then was to graduate from high school with good grades and on time with the rest of the students my age. My counselor gave me credit for my transcript I brought from Mexico. She told me if I finished the requirements for graduation, I could graduate with other students my age.

Finally, I am about to do it. I will graduate from high school on time. I will be fifth place in my class and so happy to receive my diploma with high honors.

My family played a large part in my achievements in high school and continues to be a source of motivation in my achievements in college. I am the youngest in the family and the first one to graduate from high school and to attend college. My sister quit school and got married at an early age. This was another thing that motivates me to continue my education through college. I want very much to make my parents proud of me.

My family encourages me to be part of activities at school and in the community. I am involved in many activities in high school, and when I go to college, I plan to be involved in as many extracurricular activities as my class schedule will permit.

I like to work with people who are interested in developing the potential of students. I am also interested in the Native American Student Alliance student organization because I would like to know about their culture before I graduate.

In my community, I am involved in the youth group and in the choir of my church. I sing at mass every Sunday morning. In the church youth group I am the treasurer, and I am in charge of the group's activities once a month. These activities demand commitment, responsibility and time.

College education is very important for my future. College is my opportunity to improve my life by having more opportunities to get better jobs, and to encourage my family to go back to school. In college you look into different ethnic groups, their backgrounds, style of thinking and ways to solve problems in the world. I think because I want to be a journalist, I need to have an open mind to understand the people in the community and to know more about the world in which we live.

My goal is to become a journalist who would be in touch with the people, helping them to make this world a more pleasant place in which to live.

Signed /s/ Your Name Printed

Your Signature

Scholarship Personal Statement Guide

Personal statements are essays that you write for most scholarship applications. They may be short essays (200-500 words) or longer essays (900 words). Personal statements should be typed, with a font no smaller than size 10.

What Makes A Winning Personal Statement

Unsuccessful personal statements, more often than not, resemble a laundry list of activities, awards, and accomplishments. Although these credentials are often impressive in and of themselves, reading such materials often feels like inhaling a random conglomeration of facts.

A winning personal statement should allow the scholarship committee to have an inside glimpse to your life and accomplishments. After reading your personal statement, it is important for the scholarship committee to come away feeling they understand the core interests, skills and values of the individual.

How To Get Started?

Writing a personal statement can be a challenging task, but it doesn't have to be. This guide will help you organize your thoughts and put you in the right frame of mind as you write your personal statement. Listed below are examples of how requests for personal statements/essays are stated. These are taken from actual scholarship applications.

Example 1

1) Include a typed personal statement of 500-750 words expressing how your school experiences-academics, extracurricular activities, outside activities and work experiences-are shaping your educational and career goals, why you should be considered for scholarship support, and any financial or other information you wish to share that may be of importance to the selection committee.

Example 2

2) Please attach to this application a one- or two- page typed personal statement in which you address the following: a) family background; b)achievements; c)current educational status; d) career goals; e)community service/extra-curricular activities f) financial need for this scholarship; and any other information relevant to this application.

Step One: **Gathering information for your personal statement.**

Before you begin to write your personal statement, it is important that you collect the information you need to write it. Below are a series of questions that will help you collect details that fit under the general categories required by many scholarship foundations.

Family Background

1. Where were you born? Your ethnicity?
2. Who do you live with?
3. Are you the first in your family to attend college?
4. Have you overcome any personal or economic struggles?
5. Who or what was your motivation to continue your education?

Academic Plans and Career Goals

1. What is your major? Who or what has inspired you to pursue this major?
2. What degrees would you like to earn? (example: Associates Degree, Bachelors degree, Masters degree or Doctorate degree)
3. What are your short term and long term career goals?
4. Have you been employed in any capacity or volunteered in your chosen field? If so, what have you learned from that experience?

Personal and Academic Achievements

1. What awards (personal and/or academic) have you received?
2. What are your major accomplishments, and why do you consider them accomplishments?
3. Does any attribute, quality, or skill distinguish you from everyone else? How did you develop this attribute?
4. Have you ever struggled for something and succeeded? What made you successful?
5. Have you ever struggled for something and failed? How did you respond?

Extra-Curricular Activities

1. What are your most important extracurricular activities? What made you join these activities? What made you continue to contribute to them?
2. How do you schedule your time to include both academic and extra-curricular activities?

Past, Current, and Future Efforts Toward Making a Difference in your Community

1. How have you served your community in the past?
2. Are you currently involved in community service?
3. How will you serve your community in the future?

Financial Need

1. Do you have to work to pay for school?
2. How will this scholarship help you financially?
3. What will your parents have to sacrifice financially in order to send you to college?

Step Two: **Selling yourself to the scholarship selection committee by carefully selecting the information you will include in your personal statement.**

This is a very important part of the process! Here you will sort through all the information you have collect to write your 2-3 page personal statement. Please keep the following things in mind:

- ✓ A personal statement is like a 30-second commercial during the Super Bowl. You have to grab the readers' attention with your story so they decide they want to invest in you.

- ✓ Be sure to cover all aspects of the scholarship qualifying criteria, if it be discussing your financial need, community service, etc.

- ✓ Highlight your strengths. If you have great background information and financial need, but not very much past volunteer experience, then write the personal statement focusing on background information and financial need and placing less emphasis on the other areas. When you write the volunteer section, emphasize what you will do rather than what you haven't done.

Step Three: **Editing your essay**

- ✓ Review the draft yourself. Give the draft to a peer and an adult (teacher, counselor, parent) to review at the same time you are reviewing your draft even if it isn't your best work. Things to keep in mind when reviewing your draft:
  - Did I answer the questions?
  - Spell check
  - Check the writing tips against your writing

- ✓ Incorporate feedback from others; make corrections.

- ✓ Read it once more if you have time, and have someone else read it once more.

- ✓ Finalize the draft by incorporating the last revisions.

- ✓ Make photocopies as well as keeping an electronic copy. The last thing you want to do is start over if your hard drive crashes, you lose your disk or your application is lost in the mail.

In Your Personal Statement

DO

- Make your opening paragraph as individual as you are so you can entice the reviewer to read more! Spend time crafting your first sentence, and each sentence, until you are satisfied with the message and the style.
- **Include a brief description (not a list) of your specific achievements.**
- Give readers a taste of your daily life to make a point about yourself (multiple responsibilities, busy schedule, financial hardship, etc.)
- Identify your long-range goals.
- Find out as much as possible about your chosen field and explore the merits of particular careers before you write your personal statement.
- Use present tense when possible.
- When writing your personal statement allow time for breaks and to return with a fresh perspective.
- Follow the scholarship application submission rules precisely.
- Proofread the essay and make a duplicate copy.
- Do put your name on every page.
- Lastly, be creative. Entertain. Tell a story.

DON'T

- Don't simply list the honor awards or achievements that you included on you application.
- Don't compliment yourself with praise that makes you seem immodest.
- Don't make too many detailed promises about what you intend to do (volunteering, initiating special projects).
- Don't begin with: "Hello, my name is….".