

George Washington Gale Scholars Program



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The George Washington Gale Scholars Program began in 1996 as collaboration between CUSD Galesburg #205, Carl Sandburg College, and Knox College. The selected students, known as Gale Scholars, receive academic and social support with the goal of helping them earn their Bachelor's degrees. The Gale Scholars maintain certain academic and community involvement standards and are awarded scholarships covering the cost of tuition at both Carl Sandburg College and Knox College.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Current eighth grade students who will be entering Galesburg High School are eligible to apply for the program. These students must also:

- Demonstrate financial need (see the application for details),
- Be first-generation college students (neither parent holds a bachelor's degree).
- Have a record of academic success and community involvement demonstrated by:
 - Recommended attendance of at least 90%.
 - Recommended cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 from the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.
 - Participation in extracurricular activities or community involvement.
- Gale Scholars finalists also submit two letters of reference and complete an interview with the selection committee.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Students should submit an application form, detailing their academics, activities, and awards, by Friday, March 14, 2014 to their school office. **The student section of the application must be completed by the student.**
2. A parent or guardian should complete the Parent Certification section of the application and provide requested financial documentation (signed copies of 2013 1040 Federal Tax Returns.)
3. Students and parents must agree to release a copy of the student's transcripts to the selection committee.

SELECTION PROCESS

Up to fifteen eighth grade students are selected annually as Gale Scholars. The Selection Committee (comprised of one representative from Knox College and Carl Sandburg College and three representatives from District #205) reviews all applications and selects finalists on the basis of their academic performance, community involvement, and personal character. Finalists submit two letters of reference and complete an interview with the Selection Committee. Gale Scholars are selected from the finalists.

DEADLINES

Student applications are due in the student's school office by March 14, 2014, with a copy of their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) 2013 1040 Federal Tax Returns. Finalists will be announced by March 20, 2014. Two letters of reference for the finalists are due in the school office by March 28, 2014. Gale Scholars are notified of selection by April 17, 2014.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

DIRECTIONS

Find your family size on the income chart to the right. If your family's taxable income was below this amount in 2013, your child qualifies for the Gale Scholar Program.

If your family size is greater than eight members, add \$6,090 for each additional family member.

Size of Family	Taxable Income
1	\$17,505
2	\$23,595
3	\$29,685
4	\$35,775
5	\$41,865
6	\$47,955
7	\$54,045
8	\$60,135

Whose income is included?

- If the child lives with both parents or one parent and a step parent, family income is based on the combined income of those two individuals.
- If the child lives with only one parent (who is single, divorced, or widowed), family income is based solely on that parent's income.
- If the parent lives with foster parents, the child automatically meets the income criteria. Please write "FOSTER PARENT" next to your signature. Foster parent income should NOT be used to determine income eligibility.

For each additional family member add:	\$6,090
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Definition of "parent" for income eligibility determination:

A parent is:

- Natural, biological, or step parent(s)
- Adoptive parent(s)
- Legal guardianship (individual who has been appointed by the court and has been directed by the court to use his/her financial resources to support the child. This does not include grandparent(s) or other relatives, unless they have adopted the student or are the court-appointed guardian(s) of the student.

What is included in income?

- **All taxable income.** (Signed copies of 2013 1040 Federal Tax Return must be included with application)

DEFINITION OF A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT

A student qualifies as a first-generation college student if he/she:

- Lives with both parents, and neither parent has completed a bachelor's degree
- Lives with only one parent, and that parent has not completed a bachelor's degree

NOTE: Definition of a parent for determining whether a student is a first generation college student.

A parent is: -- Natural or biological parent(s) OR adoptive parent(s)

It is important to answer each of these questions carefully and completely. You may attach an additional sheet if necessary. (To be completed by the student applicant)

1. PLEASE LIST MEMBERSHIP/WORK WITH ANY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OR CLUBS:

2. HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL? (EXAMPLES: VOLUNTEERISM, PART-TIME WORK, HOBBIES, FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, CHURCH INVOLVEMENT, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS):

3. PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OR AWARDS YOU HAVE RECEIVED (EXAMPLES: HONOR ROLL, ATTENDANCE AWARD, STUDENT OF THE MONTH):

ADD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF YOU WOULD LIKE THE SELECTION COMMITTEE TO KNOW:

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SELECTION TIMELINE

February 28: Letters and applications are mailed to all eighth graders and families by School Deans.

March 14: Applications are due to school offices with copies of 2013 Federal 1040 tax returns.

March 20: Finalists are notified and provided with letter of reference forms.

March 28: Letters of reference are due to school offices.

April 7-8: Finalist interviews at Lombard Middle School.

April 9-10: Finalist interviews at Churchill Jr. High School.

April 17: Gale Scholars are notified of selection into program.

May 2—1:00 p.m.: Gale Scholar induction ceremony at Carl Sandburg College

May 13— 7:00 p.m.: Mandatory Gale Scholar meeting for parents and Scholars at Galesburg High School

2014 Summer School Dates—(Subject to Change)

- **9th Graders** meet Monday through Friday, June 2nd to June 27th, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- **10th Graders** meet Monday through Thursday, June 2nd to June 27th, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon or 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
- **11th Graders** meet at Carl Sandburg College, Monday through Thursday, June 2nd to June 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
- **12th Graders** meet at Knox Monday through Thursday, June 2th to June 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

A recognition luncheon barbeque will be held at Knox College, Thursday, June 12th at 12:00 noon.