

The Inside Scoop on LPA College Scholarships

Presented by LPA's Programs Director,
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Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

Scholarships are given in order of preference to:

- Members of LPA who have a medically diagnosed form of dwarfism.
- Immediate family members of those with dwarfism who are also paid members of LPA.
- Individuals with dwarfism who are not members of LPA.

To inquire about your LPA membership status, please email info@lpaonline.org

LPA Scholarship awards shall be limited to two awards for undergraduate studies and one for graduate studies. Ellen Highland Fernandez Graduate Scholarship recipients may re-apply up to two additional times.

2023 LPA College Scholarship Program Timeline

- Application portal will open on February 15th.
- Application portal will close on April 15th.
- Recipients will be notified by June 1st.
- Scholarship awards (checks) will be mailed to colleges/universities around August 15th.

Please note that these dates are subject to change. Please visit <https://www.lpaonline.org/college-scholarship-applications> for the most up to date information.

Application Requirements

- General/Contact Information
- Upload Photo of Yourself
- Academic & School Information
- LPA Involvement, Extracurricular Activities, Awards and Experiences
- One letter of recommendation is required for undergraduate students. Two letters of recommendation are required for graduate students.
- Two Personal Essays/Statements
 - As an applicant to the LPA Scholarship, how do you anticipate receiving this scholarship will impact your higher education experience and your higher education goals? If you are re-applying as a past LPA Scholarship recipient, how has receiving your scholarship impacted your higher education experience and higher education goals?
 - As an applicant to the LPA Scholarship, how do you anticipate receiving this scholarship will impact your relationship to LPA and/or the greater little people community? If you are re-applying as a past LPA Scholarship recipient, how has receiving your scholarship impacted and/or inspired your involvement and leadership in LPA?

Previous/Current LPA/ LP Community Involvement

- Wrote to your local Senator or Representative in regards to Dwarfism Awareness and/or Disability Awareness Initiatives.
- Volunteered in the kid's room at an LPA Regional or National Conference.
- Served as your chapter or district's Teen/Young Adult Coordinator.
- Mentored LP kids/teens/young adults.
- Participated in DAAA or Paralympic sporting events.
- Wrote an article for the LPA Today Magazine.
- Put together a presentation for your school/community in regards to Dwarfism Awareness Month and/or Disability Awareness.
- Participated on a panel discussion for a workshop during an LPA regional or national conference, or a virtual LPA workshop.
- Participated in the LPA Talent/Fashion Shows.
- Put together and/or participated in a fundraiser for your LPA chapter/district.
- Participated in a Boy/Girl Scout or Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service Project that benefited the Dwarfism/Disability community.
- Created an informative Tik Tok that promotes Dwarfism/Disability Awareness.

How Do You Plan to Pay-It-Forward to LPA?

- **Medicine/Health Sciences:** Serving on LPA's Medical Advisory Board. Represent LPA at medical conferences. Advocate that health care providers receive more training to better serve dwarfism/disability communities. Serve on LPA's Biotech Committee. Conduct research that will benefit the health of LPs. Advocate for students with dwarfism/disabilities to have equitable opportunities to pursue a career in medicine, health sciences, etc.
- **Education/Teaching:** Serve on LPA's Conference Management Committee to Chair to the kid's room at national conferences. Organize the kid's room at regional conferences. Put together literature to assist educators when working with students with dwarfism/disabilities. Advocate for students with dwarfism/disabilities at education conferences, meetings, rallies, etc.
- **Engineering:** Create and design adaptive equipment that will benefit people with dwarfism/disabilities in everyday life. Design buildings and spaces that promote Universal Design (access for all).
- **Arts/Entertainment:** Serving on LPA's Dwarf Artist Coalition. Work with casting offices to promote dwarfism and disability representation in media. Create works of art like plays, films, documentaries etc. that highlight the dwarfism and disability community, etc.
- **Counseling/Social Services:** Serving on LPA's SWAT (Social Work & Talking) Team. Advocate that Medicaid & Medicare cover more mental health services. Host mental health workshops for LPA members. Host community speaking events that center on anti-bullying, diversity and inclusion, etc.
- **Business/Finance:** Serving as the Finance Director for LPA. Assist LPA with fundraising initiatives. Serve as your chapter or district's treasurer. Assist the organization with grant writing. Serve on LPA's Finance and Sponsorship Committees.

Closing Information & Helpful Tips

- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- LPA's Scholarship Program is competitive. Your application submission does not guarantee a scholarship award.
- Typically LPA College Scholarships cover a small portion of one's school expenses. Please make sure to apply to other scholarships that you qualify for, and also reach out to your state's Vocational Rehabilitation Office to assist with funding your education.
- Please proofread! The Scholarship Committee considers spelling and grammar when reviewing applications.
- Craft a thank you letter, if you receive an award. If you are planning to apply for another LPA scholarship, a thank you letter from past scholarship recipients impresses the Scholarship Committee.
- If you need help, do not be afraid to ask! A high school counselor, college advisor, mentors, or even another college student may all be of service to you.

Questions/Concerns?

Please do not hesitate to email us scholarship@lpaonline.org

Please allow 48-72 hours for us to get back to you 😊