



**2024 ‘WOMEN EVERYWHERE’  
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Awards:** The WOMEN EVERYWHERE (“WE”) College Scholarship Program, which is a part of the Women Everywhere: Partners in Service Project, annually awards college scholarships in an amount up to \$1,000 to qualified high school graduates. College scholarships are awarded to students based upon their demonstrated involvement in and commitment to the community (high school and/or home community), academic achievement, reference(s), and a written essay. In addition, four \$125 e-gift cards will also be awarded to applicants for recognition of: Best Essay, Community Service Standout, Stellar Scholar, and Resilient Rising Star.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for these scholarship awards, students must be enrolled in a college or university full-time in the school year following graduation, and they and their high schools must be participants in the annual WE Education Day/Court Tour Programs scheduled for **Spring 2024**, at any of our Tours throughout Cook County, including: the Cook County Criminal Court Division (Leighton), Bridgeview District Court, Markham District Court, Daley Center, Skokie District Court, and Federal District Court in the Chicago Loop.

**How to Apply:** Email your complete application (application form, transcript, essay, and letter of recommendation) to [scholarship@wechicago.org](mailto:scholarship@wechicago.org) by the deadline noted below.

**Deadline:** Your complete application must be received via email by **Friday, May 31, 2024**.

**Instructions:** The following application instructions and application materials are posted on the Women Everywhere website at: [www.wechicago.org](http://www.wechicago.org). **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. Please read the instructions thoroughly before completing and submitting your application with supporting materials. A complete application must include the following items:**

A completed and signed WOMEN EVERYWHERE College Scholarship Application Form which can be found on the WE website at: [www.wechicago.org](http://www.wechicago.org) or, if application packages are distributed to the students, the Form and Guidelines are included in this document,



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along with attached materials related to the essay requirement;

An official high school transcript or photocopy of an official transcript of your most recent grades and class rank;

One (1) letter of recommendation from a high school teacher of a substantive course you took earlier in high school or are taking in your senior year. OR a letter of recommendation from a community leader who knows you through your work on a community-based or faith-based project, provided that your contact with that person is extensive enough, for at least one year, so that he or she is able to describe the project(s) in which you participated and to comment upon your skills, interests, level of commitment and character. The community reference must include that person’s contact information and the organization with which he or she is affiliated; and

A typed essay of no fewer than 500 and no more than 750 words, double-spaced, on the topic of our theme for 2024: **The Resilience and Courage of Women in This Challenging Time.** Please see below the detailed explanation of this essay subject matter to help you better understand the ‘assignment’.

*During the emergency portion of the pandemic, women and girls you know and have read about, including those in your family, your teachers, and women in the medical profession who are ‘Frontline Workers’ serving as doctors, nurses, caregivers, and medical assistants, have given generously of their time and talents to keep others as safe and healthy as possible, all at the risk of their own health and safety. **TELL US** about someone whose sacrifices for others have deeply impressed and moved you, who may have broken barriers and forged a new path for others to follow, and who has thus served as an inspiration for how you might live your own life.*

**APPLICATION FORM:**

**Instructions:** Please answer each question completely and accurately. Where necessary, use additional pages to complete your answers, noting on the pages the number of the question to which you are responding. If a question is not applicable, please write ‘N/A’ in the blank space.



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Please attach your essay to this application.

**1. PERSONAL: Applicant Information:**

Last/First/Middle Name: [OBJ] \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: [OBJ] \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: [OBJ] \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Parent or Legal Guardian:**

Last/First/Middle Name: [OBJ] \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: [OBJ] \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: [OBJ] \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Notification of scholarship award will be sent by email to the applicant and the applicant's parent/guardian. If we do not receive a response within two weeks, we will try to contact you by phone.*

**2. EDUCATION:**

College/University that you expect to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and location of the WE Education Day you participated in this year: \_\_\_\_\_



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**3. AWARDS and HONORS:**

List any awards, honors, scholarships, and/or prizes or recognitions that you have received:

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**4. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** List extra-curricular activities (school and community based) in which you have participated:

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**5. COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT**

Please list any community service organizations or initiatives you are involved with, including any roles you hold and a description of the work you engage in:

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**6. OTHER INFORMATION:** We encourage everyone to apply. While your grades matter, you may have participated in a variety of activities that reflect a positive character and a strong commitment to helping others. Please tell us about them, and/or any other facts or circumstances (financial or otherwise) which you think WOMEN EVERYWHERE should know or which might be useful in evaluating your application, *using additional pages if necessary*.

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**7. CONFIDENTIALITY:** All information contained in, and submitted with, this application will be treated by WOMEN EVERYWHERE as confidential except as necessary to verify information.

**8. CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPH AND PUBLISH:** WE may wish to publish photographs or portions of student essays on its website and in other materials. If you and your parent/guardian consent to such publication, please sign below indicating consent. Whether or not the below consents are provided will not affect WE scholarship decisions.

**Consent to photograph and publish:**

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. CERTIFICATION:** I understand that the WOMEN EVERYWHERE College Scholarship Program will rely on the information contained in this application. The above statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**ESSAY INFORMATION AND SAMPLES:**

**2023 Theme: The Resilience and Courage of Women in a Challenging Time**

The last few years have brought with them many challenges, often resulting in pain, illness, and for some, the loss of loved ones and dear friends in our lives. Added to that has been 'upheaval', which is another kind of loss: of our usual routines, inclusive of where we were going and what we were doing each day and with whom and why, and the adversity experienced by many individuals and families who had diminished social, economic and educational support systems as a result of losing jobs and perhaps due to poor or unavailable health care options.

Underlying it all has been the fear many have faced regarding what life may be like when and if we are able to return to 'normal', if we even know or can imagine what 'normal' will look like. Yet despite these sudden challenges we all encountered, many have found inner strength they may not have known they possessed but that has allowed them to be brave and resilient and thus find purpose even while under our own stress in order to find ways to use their abilities to reach out to help others who were and still are suffering. These sometimes life altering moments have also underscored the perseverance, and bravery, of women in our own families, our communities, the nation, and the world, and most certainly all those who have been serving as front line workers: doctors, nurses, medical assistants, caregivers, and teachers.

You and your classmates have faced a much different senior year of high school than you ever imagined, but here you are, resilient and continuing to find your own path forward. And so, with this year's theme, we call upon you to think about your own heroines, both current and historic, who have inspired your path forward. Some heroines may be members of your family or live in your community or be your teachers or leaders of community organizations or houses of worship. Some might even be you.

You are free to choose any one or more of the individuals from the lists below or write about your own heroine who inspires you and may inspire others, or your own struggles and triumphs.



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The four sample essays below are of varying length. We consider the shorter ones as “prompts” which are intended to spark some ideas about subjects and their relationship to this year’s Theme about strong, resilient, courageous women who persevered in the face of substantial challenges and hardships. Remember that your choice of subject will require more than a short paragraph. We welcome creativity as it relates to the essay theme and encourage you to choose a subject about which you feel passionate.

**Sample Essay #1:**

I mourned the passing of the Notorious RBG in October 2020. As a woman lawyer and even more so, as a woman lawyer who wanted a career and a family, I owe a lot to Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Thus, by this writing, I honor her memory and reflect on the legacy she left to this country, its Constitution, and its people. She was born Joan Ruth Bader to Russian Jewish Immigrant parents on March 15, 1933, in Brooklyn New York. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Cornell University where she met and married the true love of her life, Marty D. Ginsberg. Ruth said of her husband that he was “*the only young man I dated who cared that I had a brain.*”

After their first child, both chose to become lawyers and attended the prestigious Harvard Law School, with Ruth taking a seat in a law class of 552 men and just eight other women. During their second year at Harvard, Marty was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Ruth cared for him, their daughter Jane, took her classes and ensured Marty was up to date with his so he would not fall behind during his illness. At times she worried about managing her rigorous coursework, a sick husband and young child. Yet her resilience in the face of adversity enabled her to withstand the challenges she faced and find a way to overcome them. Ruth ultimately received her law degree from Columbia Law School, where she graduated top of her class.

The couple supported each other’s respective careers fiercely, with each taking on childcare responsibilities when the other’s time was more focused on other matters. One of my favorite quotes of Justice Ginsberg is when she stated that “*Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation.*”



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In 1972, Ruth co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), later becoming an ACLU board member, then its General Counsel. In this role she argued six gender discrimination cases before the U. S. Supreme Court, winning five of the six. In 1980, Pres. Carter appointed her to her first judicial post at the U.S District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia where she served until 1993 when she was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by Pres. Clinton, thus becoming its second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. As part of that Court’s moderate liberal bloc, she was a strong voice for gender equality, workers’ rights, and separation of Church and State.

Justice Ginsberg worked tirelessly for equal rights for women and paved the way for so many. She sacrificed a well-deserved retirement and battled cancer while displaying a steadfast commitment to her position on our land’s highest court. We honor her legacy by continuing her fight for justice, equality and inclusion for all women, regardless of race, class or religion.

**Sample Essay #2:**

Social media has provided a way to communicate and keep in touch with friends during the pandemic. But, while social media can provide an easy and fun way to connect with other people, it can also give a distorted view of reality, which can be isolating and destructive. It is so easy for any of us to look at other people’s photographs and social media posts and compare that carefully curated photograph or video to ourselves and our lives. Scrolling through photos thinking ... wow... look how great her skin is, how tiny her waist looks in that dress, how fancy her clothes are. You tap the heart to “like” someone’s post, all the while feeling smaller and more critical of yourself. Technology has imposed a constant sense of immediacy and fast-paced praise and rejection. There are filters that trim waists and plump lips. Images portray “perfect” lives. While you know that the number of “likes” doesn’t actually equate to how ‘liked’ you are or how great your achievements may be, it can be easy to lose sight of your worth. Remember, you have your own talents, accomplishments, goals, and ambitions that don’t require approval or “likes” to be of value and to bring joy to you and those in your family and friendship circles.

To try to combat the pressure I sometimes feel after engaging in various social media apps, I remind myself of who I am...I am a daughter. I am a sister. I am an athlete. I volunteer for causes that I care about. I am a good and strong person. I am thoughtful and kind, and I deserve the best. I am resilient. I repeat it over and over again. I pledge to see the best in myself and ask for help





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when I’m feeling down. I will believe in myself and only admit those into my life who are deserving of my love and attention. I understand that self-care and self-love are a lifelong process that I must consistently practice in order to master.

**Sample Essay #3:**

Many Chicago residents are familiar with the name Ida B. Wells, perhaps because a few iconic Chicago sites carry her name, one being a long ago demolished public housing development of which we are not especially proud, and the former ‘Congress Parkway’ in the south loop recently re-named as Ida B. Wells Drive—Chicago’s first ever naming of a public street for a person of color. Why do we know and honor her? First, in 1913 she founded the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago which was the first of its kind focusing specifically on suffrage and related issues of

concern to African American women—and men. A journalist by vocation, Wells was a persistent activist and abolitionist who embarked on a life-long and personally dangerous crusade against lynching which continued into the 1890s, long after the emancipation of African Americans. Although Wells’ activism and her reporting on those horrific crimes exposed her to constant danger, she nevertheless withstood the dangers, finding courage to keep making a difference.

**Sample Essay #4:**

Recently, we observed the Centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which conferred voting rights on women, who previously were denied. In considering the fight of so many women to obtain equality with men, including black men who had recently succeeded in getting the passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowing them, as men, to vote, we should recognize that white women Suffragists were given most of the credit for the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Because Black women advocates for women’s right to vote were sidelined, we should take time to finally pay homage to the ‘Unsung Heroines’ of the Suffrage Movement: African American women like abolitionist Ida B. Wells, civil rights leaders Mary Church Terrell, and Harriet Tubman. Also consider Josephine Ruffin who demanded equality of treatment with her white counterparts, and the indefatigable Sojourner Truth who bravely sought freedom for herself and her children and lobbied for the needs of African Americans, including for land grants from the federal government for former enslaved people (which effort failed), as well as many other women of color who fought fervently though in different ways to obtain the right for all women to have access to the polls.



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- **A selection of heroines:**

- **In Politics:**

- Vice President Kamala Harris – our first woman VP
- Stacey Abrams – Georgia Politician and Voting Rights Activist
- Several elected officials of AAPI descent (Asian American Pacific Islander), including U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and first Senator to give birth while in office; State Representative Theresa Mah, the first Asian American elected to serve in the Illinois General Assembly; and Josina Morita, the first Asian American to serve on the MWRD (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District)
- Former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot - the first openly lesbian African American to be elected mayor of a major U.S. city
- U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi – the only woman as yet to serve as Speaker
- U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez--youngest woman to serve in U.S. Congress

**In Science:**

- Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett – viral immunologist who worked with Moderna for the Covid-19 vaccine
- Dorothy Vaughan and Katherine Johnson – mathematicians and NASA employees critical to sending the first Americans to space (their story was featured in the movie *Hidden Figures*)
- Flossie Wong-Staal – virologist and molecular biologist who cloned HIV to create a map of its genes, which led to a test for the virus
- Sally Ride – first American woman in space
- Rosalind Franklin – she worked on discovery of the double helix structure of DNA
- Marie Curie – first woman to win a Nobel Prize

- **In the Arts:**

- Viola Davis – the first African American to receive the “Triple Crown of Acting” (Academy Award, Tony Award, and Emmy Award)
- Amanda Gorman – the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate, and she delivered her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden



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- Hattie McDaniel – the first African American to win an Academy Award
- Whoopie Goldberg – has won an Emmy Award, Grammy Award, Academy Award, and Tony Award
- Halle Berry – the only woman of color to have won an Academy Award for Best Actress
- Frida Kahlo – celebrated and revered Mexican painter whose resilience, persistence, and courage throughout her life despite multiple injuries and illnesses have earned her recognition and respect
- **In the Civil Rights & Women’s Suffrage Movements; and a Labor Union Organizer:**
  - Harriet Tubman – American abolitionist and political activist
  - Mary Church Terrill – the first African American woman to earn a college degree; and a civil rights and suffrage activist
  - Shirley Chisholm – the first Black woman elected to the US Congress
  - Rosa Parks – civil rights activist, best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott
  - Ruby Bridges – civil rights activist and the first African American student to integrate an elementary school in the South: just imagine the courage that took!
  - Dolores Huerta, Workers Rights Organizer and champion of women’s issues in

the 1990s and 2000s, and, with Civil Rights Activist Cesar Chavez, co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association

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- **In Sports:**
  - Serena Williams – Twenty-three Grand Slam singles titles
  - Naomi Osaka – Four-time Grand Slam singles champion, reigning champion at the U.S. Open and Australian Open
  - Megan Rapinoe and Margaret Purce – US Women’s soccer players and equal pay activists
  - Sarah Fuller – soccer player and first woman to score in Power 5 football game
  - Becky Hammon – the second woman assistant coach and first woman full-time assistant coach in NBA history
  - Oksana Masters – Paralympian Rower and Cross-Country Skier