

**2025 ‘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 of \$2,000 to qualified high school graduates. The 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, \$250 e-gift cards may 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 enroll 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 **March 2025** in courthouses throughout the Cook County Circuit Court system and in the Chicago Federal Courthouse.

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

**Deadline:** Your complete application must be received via email by **April 23, 2025**.

**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:**

1. 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, along with attached materials related to the essay requirement;
2. An official high school transcript or photocopy of an official transcript of your most recent grades and class rank;
3. 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

4. A typed essay of no more than 500 words, double-spaced, with one inch margins in size 12 Arial font on ONE of the following essay prompts:
- Describe a challenge in your life, how you overcame it, and what you learned from it.
  - Describe a social issue that is important to you, how you intend to help solve it, and what obstacles you might face along the way.
  - Describe a time you failed at something. How did you respond and what did you learn from it?
  - Tell us three things that are important about you. How did you arrive at this list? Will these things be important in 10 years? Why or why not?
  - Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful that their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, please share your story.

**Essays will be graded based on the rubric below:**

Traits	4	3	2	1
<b>Focus &amp; Details</b>	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear and are well supported by detailed and accurate information.	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear but are not well supported by detailed information.	There is one topic. Main ideas are somewhat clear.	The topic and main ideas are not clear.
<b>Organization</b>	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the paper. Information is relevant and presented in a logical order. The conclusion is strong.	The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. A conclusion is included.	The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included.	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
<b>Voice</b>	The author's purpose of writing is very clear, and there is strong evidence of attention to audience. The author's extensive knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is some evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are limited.	The author's purpose of writing is unclear.
<b>Word Choice</b>	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural, and not forced.	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone.	The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety.	The writer uses a limited vocabulary. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
<b>Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, &amp; Spelling</b>	All sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.

**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. Please attach your essay to this application.

**Please list the date and the courthouse for which you attended a Women Everywhere Education Day Program:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. PERSONAL:**

**Applicant Information:**

Last/First/Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: ( ) - Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Last/First/Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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 make contact by phone.*

**2. EDUCATION:**

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

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

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

**3. AWARDS and HONORS:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

List extracurricular activities (school and community based) in which you have participated:

---

---

---

**5. EMPLOYMENT**

Please list any jobs you have held including the number of hours worked each week. You may also list unpaid household responsibilities in this section (e.g. caring for younger siblings)

---

---

---

**6. 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:

---

---

---

**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.*

---

---

---

**7. CONFIDENTIALITY:** All information contained in, and submitted with, this application will be treated 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 consents to such publication, please sign below indicating consent. Whether you consent 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: \_\_\_\_\_