

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Fund

Application Process

The purpose of the *Mariana Szczesny Scholarship* is to assist McHenry County high school graduating seniors to continue in a higher education program of their choice. This scholarship is open to all majors, for students enrolled in a four-year bachelor's program, a two-year associates program, or a technical school. Students will be selected based on academic success, financial need, and community involvement.

DEADLINE: April 15, 2019

Application Qualifications:

1. Applicants must attend school and reside within McHenry County.
2. Applicants should demonstrate academic success through GPA, ACT and recommendation letters.
3. Applicants must exhibit financial need.

Application Process:

1. Students applying for the scholarship must complete the application forms provided in your packet: *Scholarship Application Form, 2 Recommendation Forms, and Academic Verification Form.*
2. All materials must be (*mailed or delivered*) to the **Community Foundation for McHenry County, 630 N. Route 31, Suite 101, Crystal Lake, IL 60012** no later than the deadline.
3. Foundation Staff will distribute applications to the Scholarship Selection Committee. The identities of each applicant will be removed from the copies; an application number will be assigned to each application.
4. The Scholarship Selection Committee members will review the applications individually and then meet to discuss the applications and choose a recipient.
5. Community Foundation staff will inform each applicant by mail the decision of the Scholarship Selection Committee (*acceptance or decline*). The recipient chosen will receive a *Letter of Acceptance* and a *Scholarship Acceptance Form*.
6. After that time, the Recipient must complete the *Scholarship Acceptance Form*, **which should arrive to the Foundation no later than the deadline stated in the letter.**

7. The student must remit a tuition bill or other evidence of their enrollment to the Foundation.
8. The recipient will be announced at the *Alden-Hebron High School Graduation Ceremony*. A member of the Scholarship Selection Committee may attend the ceremony to present the award if desired.
9. Scholarship checks will only be made payable to the college or university. **No checks will be made out directly to the recipient.**
10. Community Foundation staff will perform due diligence to confirm that the scholarship recipient has completed coursework as granted.
11. If the scholarship recipient is receiving financial aid, it is our intention that this award will not reduce grant aid in the aid package offered by the school.

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Application

Application Guidelines:

- All application materials must be submitted at the same time.
- Please submit your application and additional materials packet to:
Community Foundation for McHenry County
Attn: Margaret Miller
630 N. Route 31, Suite 101
Crystal Lake, IL 60012
- **Applications must be RECEIVED on or before April 15, 2019. INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**
- **Please note:** All recipients of scholarship awards administered by the Community Foundation for McHenry County are listed in the organization's annual report and may be included in other promotional materials. Also, recipients are encouraged to attend scholarship award ceremonies as requested.
- You may contact the Foundation at 815-338-4483 or email Margaret at margaret@mccfdn.org with questions.

Checklist: Complete the following items and include in your application packet:

- Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Application*
- Academic Verification Form*
- Typed essay response*
- Two recommendation forms – Each must be in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature on the seal*

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Application

College Enrollment Information:

Name of college/trade school you will likely attend: _____

Have you been accepted to college/trade school?: _____

Field of Study (If undecided, please indicate undecided):

The school is a:

2 Year Institution 4 Year Institution

Other/Explain: _____

Other Colleges Applied to:

Please explain why you have selected this/these school(s).

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Application

Personal Statement: (2 – 3 sentences)

Please list your future educational and career goals.

Activities and Special Honors:

List your extracurricular school activities, community activities and church activities here. Include sponsoring organization, dates of participation, hours engaged and positions held. Use local examples. If you did not participate in any activities, please enter "None".

List your special honors and awards here. Include item and date received. If you did not receive any special honors, please enter "None".

ESSAY: (400 – 600 words, typed and attached to application)

Your response to this section is your opportunity to address the scholarship committee and show how you meet the scholarship criteria. Include information that you believe the committee should know as it considers your application. You may also include academic or personal achievements, leadership skills, community and school participation and financial obligations. Please do NOT use your name in your response.

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Application

Work Experience:

Most Recent Employer: (If you haven't been employed write N/A)

Duties:

Dates: _____

Hours/Week: _____

Next Most Recent Employer:

Duties:

Dates: _____

Hours/Week: _____

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Application

How do you plan to pay for costs not covered by the above?

Is there anything else you feel we should know about your financial needs?

Certification

- I certify that the statements herein are true to the best of my knowledge.

- I certify that my personal essay and the information provided in this application represent my own work.

Remember to complete the *Academic Verification Form, Typed Essay, and 2 Recommendation Forms* for this scholarship.

Signature *Date*

Mail to or Drop off at:
Community Foundation for McHenry County
630 N. Route 31, Suite 101
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

For Foundation Use Only: _____ Applicant No.: _____

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC VERIFICATION FORM

Student's Name: _____
(Please print your name legibly)

Instructions:

- This form must be included in each applicant's hard copy packet as indicated on the Scholarship Checklist.
- Students should complete this form and ask their school counselor or other appropriate administrator to verify the information and sign the form.
- The student's high school transcript is not required at this time but may be requested at a later date.
- Contact Margaret Miller, Program Manager, at (815) 338-4483 or margaret@mccfdn.org with any questions.

Cumulative GPA is _____ based upon a _____ scale

Cumulative GPA is: Weighted Non-Weighted

Highest Composite ACT Score _____ and/or highest Composite SAT Score _____

List senior year courses – specify advanced placement (AP), honors (H), etc.

Signature _____ Date _____ School Seal _____
President, Registrar or Counselor

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Fund
Recommendation Form for Scholarships

Dear scholarship applicant recommender,

The student listed below has selected you to give the committee a recommendation for his/her application to the Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Fund. The committee would like to know, in your opinion, why we should award scholarship funds to support this student in their education.

The purpose of the Mariana Szczesny Scholarship is to assist McHenry County high school graduating seniors to continue in a higher education program of their choice. This scholarship is open to all majors, for students enrolled in a four-year bachelor's program, a two-year associates program, or a technical school. Students will be selected based on academic success, financial need, and community involvement.

After completing this form, **put it in an envelope, seal the envelope, sign on the seal of the envelope** and return the sealed envelope to the applicant. The applicant must submit all recommendations in one packet. If you have any questions about this form or procedure, please contact Margaret Miller at (815) 338-4483 or margaret@mccfdn.org.

Thank you for your time and participation in the process.

Regards,

Mariana Szczesny Scholarship Review Committee

Applicant's Complete Name

This is a 2-page form. This first page is the cover sheet. The second page is the actual rating form. Please DO NOT use the applicant's name on the actual rating form (Page 2).

Recommendation Form for Scholarships

Please DO NOT write applicant's name on this sheet.

	< 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	5-10 years	10+ years
How long have you known the applicant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>					
	Teacher	Employer	Faith	Community	Friend
What is your relationship to the applicant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why should the applicant receive this scholarship?

Please describe your understanding of this applicant's ability to meet his/her educational goals:

Please rank your willingness to recommend the applicant for this scholarship:

- Highly Recommend
- Recommend
- Recommend with reservations
- Other: _____

Please explain:

Name of Recommender	Title/Position
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Institution/Business Name	Phone number
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Signature	Email Address	Date
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Signature Email Address Date