



2021 Summer Enrichment Scholarship Program General Information

The Assistance League of Bellingham (ALB) raises funds to pay for summer scholarships for high school (grades 9-11 only) and middle school students (grades 6-8) who attend public schools in Whatcom County, including home-schooled students with a Whatcom public school affiliation. The student's grade level at the time of the application determines whether the applicant is considered a middle school or a high school student.

Students who attend private schools and students who are related to a member of Assistance League of Bellingham are not eligible.

Summer programs are chosen by the students, not ALB. ALB scholarships can be used for a variety of accredited summer camps or programs (e.g., college prep, music, art, dance, debate, leadership, chess, science, outdoor skills, etc.) ALB does not fund religious or sports-centered camps, programs in foreign countries, or private lessons. ALB does not pay for transportation costs, only tuition and fees. Payment is made out to the camp or program, not an individual. Scholarships are awarded on merit and are not need-based. **Students do not need to know which program they plan to attend when they apply.**

Changes due to COVID-19 – hopefully for this year only.

- **Scholarship amounts have been reduced.** We will fund up to \$500 for high school students and up to \$250 for middle school students.
- **We will not be awarding scholarships proportional to each school's enrollment.** However, every public middle and high school in Whatcom County is guaranteed that at least one student who completes an application will receive a scholarship.
- **Applications must be postmarked by April 14th.** Mail completed applications to the following address: Assistance League of Bellingham, ESP Chair, 2817 Meridian St., Bellingham, WA 98225.

How to apply:

- Students must (1) **complete an application form**, (2) **write an essay** in response to one of three prompts and (3) **submit a letter of recommendation** written by an adult who is not a family member.
- Application forms and additional information are available from school counselors and can be downloaded from the ALB website: <http://assistanceleaguebellingham.org>
- Students and parents/guardians **must complete a publicity consent and release form** to be included with the application or make a request in writing to waive this requirement.

Students who are awarded a scholarship will be notified by phone or email in early May. Students have until June 4th (no later) to choose a summer program and supply ALB with completed registration materials.

QUESTIONS? Please contact the committee chair at ESPchair@albham.org.

March, 2021

Dear Students and Parents:

It's not too soon to think ahead to summer 2021! Once again, the Assistance League of Bellingham (ALB) is offering summer scholarships to students in grades 6-11. Applications are available from school counselors or from the ALB website: <http://assistanceleaguebellingham.org>

NOTE: There are some things which are different this year:

- 1) Because our Thrift Shop has been closed due to COVID-19, scholarship amounts are reduced this year. We will award up to \$500 to high school students and up to \$250 for middle school students. The grade level that counts is the grade level at the time of the application.**
- 2) Applications must be mailed to ALB and postmarked by April 14th. The mailing address is: Assistance League of Bellingham, ESP Chair, 2817 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.**
- 3) Every school will receive at least 1 scholarship.**

Some things which have not changed are:

- 1) If the summer camp costs more than the maximum scholarship award, the student's family is responsible for making up the difference.**
- 2) ALB does not itself offer summer camps; the program selected is up to the student. Programs which qualify include a wide range of possible subjects including debate, chess, music, dance, theater, writing, art, leadership, ecology studies, college preview programs (such as WWU's College Quest), Wild Whatcom and more. We don't fund predominately-sports camps, programs in foreign countries, private lessons, or religion-centered camps (such as vacation Bible school). If you have a summer program in mind and wonder if it qualifies, please ask!**
- 3) Students who attend private schools and relatives of ALB members are not eligible to apply.**
- 4) Applicants need not specify WHICH summer program they plan to attend until after they know if they have won a scholarship. Students will be notified if they have been awarded a scholarship in early May. They must supply ALB with registration materials **no later than June 4th**. Payment will be made directly to the camp or program, not to the student.**
- 5) Applications involve completing an application form, writing an essay, and obtaining a letter of recommendation from someone who is not a relative.**
- 6) Students and parents/guardians must complete the publicity consent and release form, which is attached to the application, or make a request in writing to waive this requirement.**

Questions? Contact your school counselor or email the ESP chairperson at ESPchair@albham.org



2021 Summer Enrichment Scholarship Program APPLICATION FORM

Student applicant's name (first, last) _____

Complete **Address**, including zip code _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ (circle best contact method, phone or email)

Parent/Guardian Name (first, last) _____

Best contact method for parent/guardian: _____

Applicant's School (or affiliated school, if homeschooled): _____ **Current Grade** _____

Checklist:

- 1) Have you included your essay?
- 2) Have you included the letter of recommendation form filled out by a person who is not a family member (in a sealed envelope, signed across the flap by the person writing the letter)?
- 3) Have you signed and included the publicity release?
- 4) Have you and your parent/guardian carefully read, and signed the statement below?

NOTE: All applications materials must be postmarked by April 14, 2021

Mail to: Assistance League of Bellingham, ESP Chair, 2817 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

In signing below, you and your parent/guardian both attest that (1) the information you have submitted here is accurate to the best of your ability; (2) the essay is the work of you, the applicant (we encourage you to have someone else proofread it, but the actual content must be yours); (3) you acknowledge that if you win a scholarship, you are responsible for selecting a summer program/camp that qualifies under ALB rules (refer to "general information" page) and (4) you are responsible for any program costs outside of the amount ALB pays for summer scholarships; (5) if you win a scholarship, you will bring in your registration materials for ALB to attach payment at least 10 days before the camp's registration deadline. If the camp requires online registration, you will contact ALB for an appointment to do the registration and payment online at the ALB Thrift Shop, with the assistance of a committee member; (6) if you decide not to use your scholarship for a summer camp this year, you will promptly let us know, so that the scholarship might be used for someone else. (7) You also consent that if you are a scholarship winner, your photo, name, school affiliation and the summer program you choose to attend may be used in publicity materials for Assistance League of Bellingham. NOTE: (#7 can be waived if you request an exemption in writing).

Applicant's Signature _____ *date* _____

Parent/guardian Signature _____ *date* _____



2021 Enrichment Scholarship Program: The Essay

Please choose ONE of the following topics for your essay of 200-300 words. If you applied for an ESP scholarship last year, please choose a different essay question to answer or do an extensive revision of last year's essay.

- a) Do you know which summer program you would like to attend (note that you do not have to commit to a particular program now, in applying for this scholarship)? If so, tell us about it and why you have chosen it. What do you hope to learn and gain from this experience? Do you think you might face any challenges in the program you are hoping to attend? How might you use what you will learn in this program, in the future?
- b) Is there something that you are absolutely passionate about, something you think about every day? If so, tell us about your passion and why you care so much about it. Why is it important to you and possibly to others as well? What are you doing now to encourage this passion and how do you think it will influence your future?
- c) Have you heard the saying "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade"? By most accounts, 2020 was a challenging year, a real lemon. We would like to know how your experiences in the past year have inspired you to "make lemonade". In what ways has your life been enriched? How has your creativity been tapped? What new interests and new skills have you developed? How have your plans and goals for the future changed?

NOTES:

- 1. Please use a computer if possible.
- 2. Put your NAME on the top of the page and write "Topic A" or "Topic B" or "Topic C".
- 3. Think carefully about what you are going to write. We want to hear your own personal voice and words. It's okay to ask someone to proofread your essay, but the essay should be your own work based on your own ideas.
- 4. The essay counts for 2/3 of your score. The other 1/3 is the strength of the letter of recommendation, written by someone other than a family member.

THANK YOU! We're looking forward to reading your essay.



Bellingham

2021 Enrichment Scholarship Program

PUBLICITY CONSENT & RELEASE FORM

Assistance League of Bellingham has my permission to publish in print, electronic, or visual format, the name, image, or likeness of (**PRINT NAME**) _____

To Be Used For: *Enrichment Scholarship Articles, Photos, Events, & Internet Publicity Purposes for Assistance League*

DATE: _____

I waive any rights or compensation or copyright ownership thereto.

Applicant Signature _____

Parent / Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent / Guardian Signature _____

Publicidad y Formulario de Autorización de Consentimiento

Doy permiso para que Assistance League of Bellingham publique la nombre, imagen impresa, electrónica, o visual de (*nombre en letra de imprenta por favor*):

Programa: *Enrichment Scholarship Artículos, fotos, eventos y Web* Fecha: _____

Renuncio a cualquier derecho de propiedad, remuneración o derecho de producción.

Firma _____

Nombre de padre/guardián _____

(*en letra de imprenta por favor*)

Firma del padre/guardián _____