

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. ®
Phi Omicron Omega Chapter
Okinawa, Japan

Dear Graduating High School Senior,

It is with great pleasure that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Phi Omicron Omega Chapter, announces the availability of our 2026 Sanareena Keller Memorial Scholarship. Sanareena was deeply committed to the academic success of young people, and we are honored to carry forward her legacy by continuing to make a meaningful impact.

Our chapter is committed to service and educational support for deserving students within the military-connected community of Okinawa, Japan. Through this scholarship program, our goal is to award a total of \$2,000.00 in scholarship funds to graduating high school seniors who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership potential, and community engagement.

Completed application packets must be emailed to no later than **midnight on March 27, 2026** to phiomicronomega2000@gmail.com. In addition, official high school transcripts must be postmarked by March 27, 2026. Applicants will be notified of scholarship decisions by letter.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be of service and to support you as you pursue your educational goals.

If you have any questions, please contact us at phiomicronomega2000@gmail.com with the subject line: "ATTN: Scholarship Committee."

Best wishes for continued success,

2026 Scholarship Committee
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®
Phi Omicron Omega Chapter

Scholarship Application Requirements

Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a current senior attending a public or private high school located in Okinawa, Japan
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale

Required Application Materials

1. Completed Scholarship Application
 - Application must be fully completed
 - Must include both applicant and parent/guardian signatures
2. Letter of Recommendation
 - Submit one (1) letter of recommendation
 - Letter must be from a community leader, such as:
 - o High school teacher, counselor, or administrator
 - o Employer
 - o Member of the clergy
 - o Coach
 - Letters from family members will not be accepted
3. Official High School Transcript
 - Transcript must be stamped, sealed, or signed by the school registrar
 - Unofficial transcript:
 - o May be scanned and included with the emailed application packet
 - Official transcript:
 - o Must be mailed to the chapter mailbox listed on the application checklist
4. Elevator Speech Video
 - Submit a 20–30 second video
 - Video should:
 - o Introduce yourself
 - o Describe your post–high school graduation plans
 - o Clearly express your interest in the scholarship
5. Scholarship Essay
 - Length: 500–1,000 words
 - Format:
 - o Typed
 - o Double-spaced
 - o 12-point Times New Roman

- o Written in first-person perspective
- Essay Cover Sheet must include:
 - o Applicant's full name
 - o High school name
 - o Essay topic/title

Essay Topic

“Global Issues and Solutions: Why My Generation Must Get Involved”

In your essay, you must:

- Identify a global issue
- Explain how young people, including yourself, can encourage dialogue and share responsibility for making an impact locally and globally

Your essay should address the following:

- The role young people play in global issues and concerns
- A proposed solution or initiative demonstrating how you could lead change
- Potential roadblocks or challenges you may encounter while making an impact

Essays will be evaluated using the rubric provided at the end of the application packet.

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Applicant's Information:

Applicant's Full Name:	
Name of High School:	
Mailing Address:	
Email Address:	
Primary Phone:	
Secondary Phone:	

Applicant's Family Information:

Parent/Guardian Name:	
Primary Phone:	
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Primary Phone:	

Applicant's Extra Curricular Information: List your active organizational participation. Give the number of community service hours you have documented (e.g., National Honor Society 30 hours).

Club/Organization Name	Date Served	Position Held	Hours

Applicant's Future College Information:

List the names and the location of your top 3 college/university choices?	Applied? Accepted?
What is your intended major and/or minor?	
Major:	
Minor:	

Applicant's Awards and Certification Information:

Name or Purpose of Award	Sponsoring Organization	Date Received

Applicant's Work Experience (3 most recent):

Employer/Organization	Dates of Employment	Position Held

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

*****You may use an additional sheet of paper to provide more information about awards or personal achievements*****

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2026 Scholarship Applicant Checklist

Use the following checklist to ensure your 2026 Scholarship Application has been properly completed for submission prior to the deadline. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

Your application **must** include the following documents:

- ☐ Completed application form (typed form preferred)
- ☐ Applicant and Parent Signature on application
- ☐ Typed essay containing 500-1000 words, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- ☐ One letter of recommendation
- ☐ Unofficial high school transcript (scanned)
- ☐ Official high school transcript (mailed to Chapter P.O. Box)
- ☐ 20-30 second interest video attached to email submission
- ☐ Application emailed to phiomicronomega2000@gmail.com by March 27, 2026, with official transcript postmarked by March 27, 2026.
- ☐ Email submissions must have subject line: "2026 Scholarship Package Submission Last Name, First Name".

Mail official transcript to:
Vonna McKoy
ATTN Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.,
Phi Omicron Omega Chapter
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
PSC 559 BOX 5987
APO, AP 96377

Scholarship Writing Rubric

Scholarship Essay Rubric: Global Issues and Solutions

Essay Prompt: "Global Issues and Solutions: Why my generation must get involved"

Scoring Scale:

Criteria:	5 – Excellent	4 - Proficient	3 – Developing	2 – Needs Improvement	1-Inadequate
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Criteria:	5 – Excellent	4 - Proficient	3 – Developing	2 – Needs Improvement	1 - Inadequate
Thesis & Focus	Strong, clear thesis that directly addresses the prompt with deep insight and originality.	Clear thesis that addresses the prompt but could be more engaging or refined.	Thesis is present but lacks depth, originality, or clarity.	Weak or unclear thesis, does not fully address the prompt.	No clear thesis, lacks focus or relevance to the prompt.
Argument & Support Evidence	Well-developed arguments supported by compelling and specific examples of youth activism. Ideas are insightful and persuasive.	Arguments are strong and supported by relevant examples, though some ideas need further development.	Arguments are somewhat clear but need stronger support or more relevant examples.	Weak arguments with limited or vague supporting evidence.	Little to no argument or supporting evidence; ideas are unclear or missing.
Creativity & Originality	Unique, engaging perspective with fresh insights and a strong personal voice.	Good perspective with some originality, thought it could be more compelling.	Some original thoughts, but the essay relies on general ideas or lacks a	Minimal originality; generic or repetitive points without a personal touch.	Lacks originality and creativity; generic or copied ideas.

			strong voice.		
Grammar, Mechanics, & Style.	Virtually no spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors; polished and professional writing.	Few minor errors that do not interfere with readability.	Noticeable errors that slightly distract from the message.	Frequent grammar or spelling errors that make reading difficult.	Major grammar and spelling issues that significantly affect readability.

Total Score: ____ / 25

Scoring Guide:

- 25-23 Points (Outstanding): Exceptional essay with strong arguments, originality, and polished writing.
- 22-19 Points (Strong): Well-written with good organization and arguments, but minor areas for improvement.
- 18-15 Points (Adequate): Addresses the prompt but lacks depth, clarity, or strong supporting evidence.
- 14-10 Points (Needs Work): Weak structure, minimal argument support, or noticeable grammar issues.
- 9-5 Points (Poor): Unclear, unfocused, or difficult to read; does not effectively address the prompt.

Scholarship Interview Rubric

Scholarship Essay Rubric: Global Issues and Solutions

Essay Prompt: "Global Issues and Solutions: Why my generation must get involved

"Scoring Scale:

Criteria:	5 – Excellent	4 - Good	3 – Satisfactory	2 – Needs Improvement	1-Poor
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Criteria:	5 – Excellent	4 - Good	3 – Satisfactory	2 – Needs Improvement	1-Poor
Content & Depth of Response	Provides insightful, well-developed responses with strong examples related to youth activism and leadership. Clearly connects personal experiences .	Responses are thoughtful and mostly well-developed but could be more detailed. Some good examples given.	Answers are adequate but somewhat general. Limited connection to personal experiences.	Responses are vague, lack depth, and provide few relevant examples.	Answers are unclear, off-topic, or overly brief with no depth or examples.
Communication and Clarity	Speaks clearly, confidently, and articulately. Expresses ideas in an engaging, structured manner.	Speaks clearly with confidence but may have minor articulation or structural issues.	Some hesitation or lack of clarity, but ideas are understandable.	Struggles to organize thought; speech may be unclear or lack confidence .	Responses are hard to understand due to lack of clarity, mumbling, or disorganization.
Passion & Enthusiasm	Demonstrates strong enthusiasm and deep	Displays good enthusiasm and interest	Some enthusiasm but lacks strong	Shows minimal interest or engagement	Appears disengaged, unmotivated , or

	personal connection to the topic.	but could be more compelling.	energy or deep connection to the topic.	nt. Responses seem passive.	uninterested .
Professionalism & Poise	Excellent posture, eye contact, and composure. Engages naturally and professionally.	Good professionalism, with minor nervousness or awkwardness.	Some nervousness or lack of poise (e.g., fidgeting, poor eye contact).	Noticeable lack of confidence, poor eye contact, or fidgeting.	Appears unprepared, overly nervous, or unprofessional.
Ability to think on their feet.	Handles unexpected questions with confidence and thoughtful responses. Shows adaptability and critical thinking.	Handles most questions well but struggles slightly with a few.	Has some difficulty responding to unexpected questions; answers may be underdeveloped.	Struggles with unexpected questions; responses are unorganized or unclear.	Cannot effectively respond to unexpected questions; responses are incomplete or off-topic.

Total Score: ____ / 25

Scoring Guide:

- **21-25:** Outstanding candidate
- **16-20:** Strong candidate
- **11-15:** Average candidate
- **6-10:** Needs improvement
- **1-5:** Poor candidate