

Gradient Summer 2021 Exploration Scholarship

I had the pleasure of graduating from BFA in 2009! As I've gotten older, I've noticed that folks that had the opportunity to explore during their high school years often built skills that yield dividends for the rest of their lives. When I was growing up, many of my peers didn't get the opportunity to explore as they needed to earn money working a local job (I was a soccer ref!) combined with the fact that true exploration often feels scary and unattainable at a young age. While working a summer job is an important rite of passage, it is equally important to enable young adults to explore as this often plants the seeds of future endeavors. The purpose of this scholarship is to give a current Freshman, Sophomore or Junior the opportunity to "explore" this summer break (2021) by helping to remove financial constraints for the summer.

Application

- [Essay] Please submit an essay (with a length of your choosing) describing what you would do if you had the freedom to "explore" this summer and why you would take advantage of the opportunity to broaden your horizons! Examples of exploration include - but are by no means limited to - literal travel (to another state, a foreign country, etc) to experience a different culture, learning to play an instrument, hiking the AT, writing a first novel, woodworking, going deep into a science project, volunteering, etc.
- [Evidence of need] Please submit a photocopy or picture of a paystub showing typical hours worked in a previous summer/winter job. Include your manager's name and number. Students must have worked at least part-time currently or in the past to be considered (Bagging groceries at Hannaford's during last summer for example).
- [Financial estimate] Please include a rough estimate of how much money your desired exploration would cost, this should also include an estimate of loss wages. For example, I want to hike the AT trail and need \$300 of camping gear, \$100 for transportation and will miss a month of work when I normally would have earned \$1000.
- [Transcript Copy] Please include a copy of your current transcript. There is no minimum GPA required to qualify for the scholarship.
- [Recommendation Letter] Optionally, please have a peer/teacher/family member submit an email explaining why you, particularly, would take advantage of a summer of exploration.
- [Audience] You must be a current (Spring of 2021) Freshman, Sophomore or Junior at BFA-Saint Albans High School
- [Submit] Please put all of the above in a PDF and attach to an email sent to gradient.summer@gmail.com with subject "[Your Name] : Application". If someone writes a recommendation letter for you, please have them submit to the same email address with the subject "[Your Name] : Recommendation Letter".

Awarding

- All applications and recommendations must be emailed by midnight 3.31.21
- Exploring is more fun with someone else! Applying in groups of up to 4 (hiking the AT together, for example) is valid. Each member must submit a full application but in the essay portion, include each other's names. Award money will be split amongst the group.
- Recipient[s] will be chosen and notified by 4.15.21
- Recipient[s] will be awarded \$1,000 - \$3,000 depending on the nature of their "exploration" and financial situation. Final award amount will be confirmed for each recipient by 4.22.21