



## 2018-2019 High School Scholarship Program

Two \$750 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors (or GED equivalent) who are college bound (or other post-secondary institution) in 2019. The scholarship will be paid directly to the awardee's selected post-secondary institution in September.

The applications are judged on their service to community and school, response to essay questions, awards and honors, transcripts, extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendation. The student should emphasize their areas of strength, as the committee will equally consider all candidates.

### 1. Eligibility

- a. Any graduating senior or GED equivalent student under 23 years old who is the son/daughter or employee of any current Chamber member business or who is a resident of Park Ridge (lives in 60068 zip code) or attends a Park Ridge high school (Maine East/Maine South).
- b. Applicant may not be the child of a current board member of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce.

### 2. Criteria for judging

- a. Completion of the Scholarship Application (used as cover letter as stated)
- b. Community Service
- c. Two Letters of Recommendation by non-family members
- d. Official Transcripts or GED certification
- e. Extracurricular activities
- f. Completion of 3 Essays (double spaced, 12 point font)

### 3. Timelines

- a. Applications due to Chamber no later than Wednesday, May 1, 2019, by 4:00 p.m. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- b. Announcement of Winners by Wednesday, May 8, 2019.
- c. Winners will be notified by letter, email, or phone.

### 4. Application process

- a. A panel from the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce will evaluate each application.

- b. It is vital that students put detail into their responses, as this is a very subjective application where both content and presentation of thoughts weigh heavily into the evaluation process.
  - i. Submit your application to the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce ([info@parkridgechamber.org](mailto:info@parkridgechamber.org) or 720 Garden St) by Monday, Wednesday, May 1, 2019, by 4:00 p.m. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
  
- c. Please include the following items:
  - i. Character reference letter from a source outside of your school (employer, pastor, etc.) (cannot be a family member or friend)
  - ii. Character reference letter from a school source (teacher, coach, guidance counselor)
  - iii. High School Transcript
  - iv. Community Service Description with dates and hours
  - v. Extracurricular activities
  - vi. Completed Application. The application may be typed or printed legibly, but the essays must be typed.
  
- d. Direct any questions or clarifications to the Chamber office via email to [Gail.Haller@ParkRidgeChamber.org](mailto:Gail.Haller@ParkRidgeChamber.org).