

Rewarding Achievement, Supporting Potential

1) Mission of GDFS. Gananda Dollars for Scholars (GDFS) is a community-based, nonprofit organization that raises scholarship funds for qualified Gananda graduates. These scholarships help to further the education of students who have a strong work ethic and make contributions to the community. GDFS is supported by local individuals, organizations and businesses, and is a part of Scholarship America.

The Board of Directors and associated committees seek to acknowledge confident, successful youths by rewarding past achievements and encouraging high educational goals for the future.

2) Applicant Eligibility. Every graduating senior from the Gananda Central School District's current class year is eligible to apply for GDFS scholarships. This includes students who complete their education through the Wayne Technical and Career Center and students whose education is coordinated by the Gananda Committee on Special Education (CSE).

All recipients of GDFS scholarships must continue their formal education at an accredited 2 or 4 year college or trade school within a year of graduation. If this is not possible, recipients must contact the GDFS Treasurer by July 15 after graduation to make other arrangements.

3) Selection of Recipients. Selection of GDFS award recipients must be of a competitive impartial nature and selected with GDFS approval. (IRS 501(c)(3) rule).

4) Recipient Worthiness. At any time before the distribution of the award, the GDFS board may change its decision if the student behaves in a way unworthy of community respect and esteem. GDFS's responsibility is to maintain its credibility among its donors and the community.

5) Volunteer Service. Beginning in 2008-09, GDFS added a mandatory volunteer component for Gananda seniors who would like to be considered for most of its scholarships. As the requirement was phased in, the number of volunteer hours was prorated for each graduating class. Beginning with the Class of 2012, each applicant must document a minimum of 20 total hours of volunteer service during his or her high school career. At least five (5) volunteer hours must be specifically for GDFS activities.

6) Activity Log. In order to assist the students to record their participation in volunteer and other activities during high school, GDFS has devised a "Student School and Community Activity Log." Available in the guidance office and for download from the GDFS website, it outlines the specifics of the GDFS volunteer service requirement. The Log's center page, "Verification of Community Service" is

available for separate download as needed. A copy of this center page must be submitted with the scholarship application.

7) Application. After the December winter break each year, the updated common application for Gananda Dollars for Scholars awards will be available in the high school guidance office and on the GDFS website.

Students will use the current year's application adapted from the Scholarship America template and approved by the GDFS Board of Directors.

The following student characteristics will be evaluated:

Personal data/academic performance, applicant appraisal, school activities/leadership distinctions, volunteer activity/community service, work experience, unusual circumstances, educational/career objectives, essay/statement (when applicable).

8) Application Deadline. Proof of volunteer service and completed applications are to be mailed to GDFS (1500 Dayspring Ridge, Walworth, NY 14568) with a postmark no later than the date printed on the current application (approximately mid-April).

All seniors will be sent a post card acknowledging receipt or non-receipt of their application packet. Applications will then be forwarded to the Awards Selection Committee for scoring.

Incomplete applications will be scored solely on information received by the stated deadline.

9) The Awards Selection Committee. All applications will be scored as directed by the Awards Chair, using a point system. Three individuals from the GDFS board including the school representative (preferably the guidance counselor) will serve on the committee, and three others outside the GDFS board will be invited by the Awards Chair to assist. No blood relative or guardian of a current senior will take part in the Awards Selection Committee.

Applications will be scored blind. Great care will be taken to match restricted scholarship criteria with recipient. Scholarships will be assigned according to scores and other criteria established by the sponsor.

As per chapter by-laws, GDFS Board of Directors must approve selections made by the GDFS Awards Selection Committee. All decisions of the GDFS Board of Directors are final.

The goal is to have all recipient selections made by mid-May of the year.

10) Sponsored Awards. Because of escalating college costs, from time to time GDFS revises the minimum value of awards passing through its treasury. Newly sponsored awards must be established following Gananda Dollars for Scholars' Awards Policy in effect at the time. Existing awards may be modified by agreement between GDFS and the donor at any time within the award timetable.

Donor Levels –New awards established 2012 and later

A. \$250-499 Donor Level. The donor is given the opportunity to name the award. The following GDFS criteria are used for recipient selection:

Awarded to a student who meets GDFS standards in the areas of academics, extra-curricular activities, community service, work experience and character. Unusual circumstances are also considered.

B. \$500 or above Donor Level. The donor may name the award and set the criteria. Donors are assisted in establishing criteria which can be evaluated through the GDFS application process. Donors at this level may elect to divide the funds into multiple awards (\$250 award minimum each). Awards dispersed in \$250 increments will only be evaluated based on a single criterion of affirmation (ex. membership, participation, etc.).

Timetable for award sponsors:

Jan. 15 or earlier if possible, in order to include donor criteria on the scholarship application, arrangements must be made with the Awards Committee chairperson

March 1. Arrangements for all awards must be finalized in writing with the Awards Chairperson/Treasurer.

April 15. Donations from sponsors are due to the Treasurer before the Award Selection Committee meets for its selections. Awards not funded by May 1 will not be given through GDFS that June.

GDFS recognizes that, for the initial year of an award, the sponsor may need additional time in the planning/budgeting process to fully meet donor level expectations. In this case, partial funding of an award may be considered, with an agreement to fully fund the award in subsequent years.

Renewable awards and multiple year awards are encouraged and are an option to donors.

11) Endowed Awards. An endowed scholarship program is a tax-deductible contribution to Gananda Dollars for Scholars for the purpose of using only the income from the principal as scholarship awards. Up to five percent of the net assets of the fund will be distributed as a scholarship award unless otherwise directed by the donor on the endowment agreement with GDFS.

12) Award Acknowledgement. Recipients must submit the name of the school to the chapter treasurer by July 15 following graduation. After recipients research how their school treats outside scholarships, each recipient must specify on the acknowledgement form whether they prefer their check written as a book award (\$500 a semester until the award is exhausted) or a scholarship award intended for tuition. Recipients will also include with the award acknowledgement form a thank you note to each of their award donors in sealed, stamped and appropriately addressed envelopes. Failure to return the required form by the above deadline, with their personal thank you notes, may result in forfeiture of the award.

13) Award Disbursement. At the end of July, the treasurer will cut the checks payable to the institution or bookstore (with student's name and student ID number in the memo) and mail it to the student's home address.

Some sponsors choose to release payment of their award until after the recipient's successful completion of the first semester.

14) Communication. GDFS will send letters to award sponsors in appreciation of their donation and include the name of the recipient and college he/she is attending.

The Publicity Chair will provide newspaper, newsletter, and other publicity materials as deemed appropriate by the chapter.

15) Extenuating Circumstances. Any student postponing college attendance due to personal circumstances or military service must contact the treasurer. The award may be deferred for up to two years if the student makes these arrangements with the treasurer by July 15 of each year. Awards that have not been deferred because of non-communication from the recipient, or awards that have not been used after two years, will be released from encumbered funds back into the scholarship fund balance.