

Chicago Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

2012 Scholarship Program Guidelines

Application Deadline: March 1, 2012

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is a national civil rights and education organization founded in 1929 and with chapters across the country. Since its beginning, the JACL has taken an active role in dismantling discriminatory barriers for all Asian Pacific Americans.

The Chicago Chapter of JACL administers a scholarship program to help qualified students pursue their educational goals. The program awards several scholarships each year which are funded by generous donations from community sponsors. The scholarships provide financial assistance to promising students who have demonstrated academic excellence and school/community service with a special emphasis on JACL involvement and service within the Japanese American community.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors entering as freshman to a school of higher learning; continuing undergraduate students and graduate students.

Entering freshman should complete the FRESHMAN application. All other applicants should complete the GENERAL application form.

The Chicago JACL reserves the right not to make awards in every category depending upon the type and qualifications of the applicant pool.

ELIGIBILITY

Scholarship applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements.

1. Applicant must be a JACL member at either an Individual or Student/Youth Level. (Parent membership will not meet this requirement.) If the applicant is not a member, he/she must join JACL at the time of application –

for information, call the JACL office at (773) 728-7170.

2. Applicant must be a full-time student at a college, university, trade school, business school, or other institution of higher learning within the United States in the fall of 2012. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2012 scholarship program.
3. Applicant must be a resident of the State of Illinois for at least one year prior to graduation or graduate from an accredited Illinois high school.
4. Applicant may apply under only one scholarship category (Freshman or General) during the same year.
5. Past recipients of Chicago JACL scholarship awards are limited to a total of **two** awards.
6. **Scholarship recipients must attend the annual scholarship luncheon to receive their awards** – requests for exceptions to attendance must be submitted in writing in advance and approved by the Scholarship Committee.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. Only one application (Freshman or General) need be submitted to qualify for all awards listed in that same category.
2. The following is a condensed list of supporting documents required to complete a Chicago JACL Scholarship Application: JACL Application, JACL involvement, Personal Statement, Letters of recommendation, Official transcripts including SAT and/or ACT test score verification, Extracurricular activities, Work experience and Community involvement.

CRITERIA

Demonstration of academic excellence, as a measure of commitment to education, is an important but by no means the sole determinant for the scholarship awards. All application components listed above will factor into the scholarship committee's evaluation. Extracurricular activities indicate a well-rounded individual but recognition will also be given to students whose part-time jobs may

limit their ability to participate in activities. Criteria may be weighed differently depending upon the nature of the scholarship. *Special attention and weight will be given to an applicant's involvement with JACL and the JA community and in the type of activities (i.e., ensuring the civil rights of Asian Americans and others through education) that concern JACL.*

Decision of the Scholarship Committee is final.

KEY DATES

December 2011 – applications will be available for download from the Chicago JACL web site at <http://www.jaclchicago.org>, or by calling the Chicago JACL office at 773/728-7170.

March 1, 2012 – applications must be received or postmarked by this date for scholarship consideration.

April 2012 – scholarship applicants will be notified of the results of the Scholarship Committee's evaluation.

May 20, 2012 – Annual scholarship luncheon – recipients must be present to receive awards unless an exception is approved by the Scholarship Committee.

Applications and supporting materials should be submitted to:

**Chicago Chapter JACL
Attention: Scholarship Program
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640-1294**

Note: The JACL also has a National Scholarship and Awards Program in addition to the Chicago scholarship program. The national program requires a separate application available at www.jacl.org. Students may apply for both local and national scholarships in the same year.