



G.E.M. Environmental NFP

College Success Scholarship and Mentorship

Program Rules and Regulations

Award:

\$150 to aid with college application costs and/or placement testing (SAT, ACT, etc.)

\$500 voucher for the Success Services Program Mentorship through College Success Arizona

Eligibility:

Applicants must be high school seniors or college freshmen who meet the following criteria:

- Attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university located in **Arizona**
- Currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a S.T.E.M related program
- GPA above 2.5 and in “Good Standing” at current school
- Age 18 or older or have signed permission by a legal guardian
- Willingness to actively participate in the Success Services Program offered by College Success of Arizona

Application Requirements:

- Copy of academic transcripts from current institution
- Letter of recommendation strongly encouraged
 - Submitted directly to the Director of Scholarship (Scholarships@gemenvironmental.org) by the faculty member, professor, or academic advisor providing the recommendation.

- Short Answer Questions:

Do not include your name, the names of any family members, or any other identifying information in your statement that can be used to give a committee member selection bias.

1. Explain how your academic and/or personal experiences have led you to pursue your academic goals in a S.T.E.M field. *(5-7 sentences)*
2. Explain how you will use your funds. *(Examples include application or test fees, books and supplies, living/moving expenses, etc.) (3-5 sentences)*
3. Explain why the mentorship program is important to your academic progress. *(5-7 sentences)*

Deadline:

Applications are accepted until the second Friday of May, with a committee review the first Monday of June.

Rules and Regulations

The rules and regulations that follow were written to serve as the governing document for G.E.M Environmental NFP's "GEM for STEM: College Success Scholarship."

- Individuals may apply for each funding level (undergraduate, graduate, etc.) as they progress through their academic career, however, they may only be awarded one scholarship per award type. If you've been awarded once, you may not apply for that same award again.
- Scholarship information, deadlines, and application forms for download will be posted on the company web site with a running list of scholarship recipients. <https://www.gemenvironmental.org/scholarship.html>
- Applications must contain all required supplementary documentation to be eligible for review by the Scholarship Committee, this includes the Letter of Recommendation. As a part of the review process, the Director of Scholarship will contact the faculty member/ advisor to ensure the documents authenticity and validate the student's enrollment credentials.
- Individuals may only submit one scholarship application per quarter and they may apply for each funding level (undergraduate, graduate, etc.) as they progress through their academic career; however, they may only be awarded one scholarship per award type. If you've been awarded once, you may not apply for that same award again.
- The number of awards will be determined by the amount of annual scholarship funding; scholarship amounts will be determined by the previous year's donations receipts and contract revenue. As many awards will be granted at each award interval as funding will allow, if each interval can be funded. Funds will be distributed at pre-determined funding intervals to as many applicants as possible. The funding level for this particular scholarship has been set to \$650, this includes a \$150 cash award and a voucher for the Success Services Program Mentorship through College Success Arizona worth a value of \$500.
- A volunteer committee will be assembled to read and provide input on submission essays. The committee will review and vote to approve essays based purely on their structure, grammar, content, and relevance to the subject matter
 - ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, and monetary needs will not be evaluated and will have no effect in the acceptance of any one individual. Scholarships are awarded purely on the applicant's enrollment in STEM programs and their desire to contribute to their field.
- The selection committee will be made up of three organization officers or directors and four additional volunteers. The organization will require that two of the volunteers hold at least a bachelor's degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics related field and be willing to spend the adequate time necessary to thoroughly evaluate all applications they receive. Before the applications are passed on to the committee, an organization officer or director not serving on the committee will evaluate the application for minimum qualifications. Once an application is determined to qualify, a second non-committee director, officer, or volunteer will remove the applicants original identifying cover page and assign each application essay a nondescript cover page with four-digit number to be used by the committee for reference and voting purposes only. Applications essays will then be passed on to the committee, who will evaluate and grade essays using a 1-10 scale questionnaire regarding grammar, structure, substance, and relevance to the applicant's field of study. Approved applications will be voted on by all committee members and need at least a five-sevenths vote (5 of 7 members) to receive funding. Upon completion of voting, the second non-committee director or officer will re-match the four-digit number back to their respective application and announce which applicants will receive funding.

- A call for volunteers to serve as committee members will take place 1 month before the scholarship application deadline. If volunteer roles are not filled by the application deadline, absentee volunteer tasks and roles will be absorbed by officers/ directors and applications will require at least a simple majority to be approved for funding depending on the number of committee members present.
- Relatives of organizational representatives and substantial contributors will be allowed to submit applications to the scholarship program. To ensure an unbiased selection from the pool of applicants, the organization has implemented a strategy to remove selection bias of voting committee members by masking applications and removing identifying personal information by using a nondescript numbering system. This numbering system will also help to eliminate selection bias based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, financial standing, or political affiliation.
 - Family members, teachers, and those with close relations of applicants are not allowed to serve as scholarship committee members. Individuals that violate this policy may be subject to removal from the organization and/or legal ramification.
- Once an application has been determined to meet minimum qualification requirements and the application has been approved by a committee vote, the applicant will have passed all necessary requirements to be transferred funds; at which point, the individual will be held “in good faith” to use the cash portion of their award at their own discretion.
- **Before funds will be distributed, the recipient is required to submit a response to our demographic survey.** Survey information will be used for internal reporting and to evaluate our scholarship programs; however, we will not publicly release any personal information collected from the survey or the applications other than the recipient’s name and school as provided in the initial application. Recipient names will be listed on the Scholarships Page of our Organizations’ website. The student will also have the chance to submit a response to be included in our blog, “Scholarship Success Spotlight,” where we feature the recipient’s story and their accomplishments on our website and across social media.
- Make sure to enter a current mailing address, telephone number, and email on your application. If you are selected to receive an award, the award and check will be sent to the address listed on the application and correspondence will be initiated via the supplied email. **If we cannot reach you to verify your contact information, your award will be rescinded.**
- The Organization reserves the right to amend these rules at any time and it is the applicant’s responsibility to adhere to any updates or changes in policy. The most current form of the scholarship rules and regulations will be available on the Organizations webpage for viewing and download.
- Upon submitting an application, the applicant explicitly agrees to release the use of their name and likeness to the Organization for use with any future promotional material and they agree to waive the right to take legal action against G.E.M. Environmental NFP, its Directors, Officers, affiliates, employees, volunteers, contractors, or subsidiaries for the use of their name or likeness in any such Organization related business.
- All program participants, voluntary or paid, are required to adhere to the Organizations Code of Conduct. Any violations of the policies governing the Organizations’ ethics may result in award withdraw/ a rescinded award, and/or legal ramifications. The Code of Conduct is available for viewing and download from the About Page on the Organization’s website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please send your inquiry to the Director of Scholarship at Scholarships@gemenvironmental.org