

2023 Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Application

The mission of Sandhills Pride is to UNITE, CELEBRATE, ENHANCE and SERVE LGBTQ+ people, their allies, and its organizations by providing social engagement, service, education, and leadership in the Sandhills region of North Carolina. Sandhills Pride will UNITE a visible LGBTQ+ community; CELEBRATE the freedom and equality of all people; ENHANCE the well-being and development of the local LGBTQ+ community by contributing to organizations with like-minded purposes; and SERVE the Sandhills region through social engagement, education, leadership, charity, goodwill, and responsible citizenship. Sandhills Pride is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Moore County, NC.

The **Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship** is dedicated to assisting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gender queer and LGBTQ+ allied students in furthering their educations to become successful, productive adults. The scholarship is funded by individual donations and Sandhills PRIDE fundraisers.

Dear Applicant: Sandhills PRIDE is pleased to be offering a scholarship fund for the upcoming academic year.

- A total of \$10,000 may be awarded in Sandhills PRIDE Scholarships in 2023. Up to three scholarships of varying sizes may be available for students of any North Carolina accredited high school in the Sandhills region.
- One scholarship totaling \$5,000 and two additional scholarships of \$2,500 may be available. The \$5,000 Scholarship is paid out over multiple years according to the chart below:

Year 1: \$2,500

Year 2: \$2,500

- Scholarship funds must be used for educational expenses.
- Awards will be distributed to the college, university, or a technical training educational institution school in which the recipient is registered upon verification of enrollment and receipt of the awardee's student ID number.
- Award payments for the second year of the two-year scholarship will require verification of continued enrollment. In addition, the second-year award payment is contingent upon timely submission, and approval of, an informational essay outlining the applicant's continued support of LGBTQ+ people, allies, organizations, or community. The essay must be submitted to Sandhills PRIDE no later than July 1, 2024. Sandhills PRIDE reserves the right to require an in-person interview or require additional written information prior to making subsequent year payments. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide the Scholarship Committee with up-to-date contact information.

Eligibility: To be eligible for these funds, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a graduating high school senior entering an institute of higher education in the fall of 2023.
2. Be a resident of the Sandhills region of North Carolina defined as Cumberland, Hoke, Harnett, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, or Scotland counties in North Carolina.
3. Identify as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gender queer, gender nonconforming or

other LGBTQ+ student, or straight ally, who has demonstrated support for equality of the LGBTQ+ community.

4. Have been accepted by a 4-year college, a 1-2-year community college, or a technical training educational institution for the upcoming academic year.

Requirements: You must provide the following documents:

1. Completed 2023 Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Application Form.
2. Unofficial copy of your high school transcript showing a minimum GPA of **3.0 unweighted**.
3. An essay (500-1000 words) describing how you have been involved with and supported the LGBTQ+ community and your overall efforts to ensure the future of LGBTQ+ equality.
4. Sign and complete the release form if you are 18 years or older and submit proof of age. A parent or guardian must sign if you are under 18 years of age.
5. Professional headshot photograph or a yearbook photo in jpeg or png format.
6. Two letters of recommendation from an individual excluding family and friends. Note: *Reference letters may be submitted individually. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure receipt of reference letters by the deadline.*

Additionally, recipients will be required to attend the scholarship awards banquet tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2023. Students should also be available for an in-person interview as may be required by the scholarship committee.

ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER (except reference letters as stated above). IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE THE COMPLETE SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE IS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN MARCH 18, 2023.

Please email or mail the completed application form, transcript, essay, release form, professional headshot photograph, and letters of recommendation to:

Sandhills PRIDE
Attn: Scholarship Committee
PO Box 3473
Pinehurst, NC 28374
scholarship@sandhillspride.org

For additional information, contact the scholarship committee at scholarship@sandhillspride.org. Thank you for your interest and good luck!

– ***The Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Committee***

2023 Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name

Physical Address: City, State, Zip

Mailing Address (if different) City, State, Zip

Phone number(s)

E-mail Address

Date of Birth

How you identify yourself:

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Queer/Gender Queer/Gender Nonconforming Straight Ally Other _____

Name of High School

City, State of High School

Expected Graduation Date

Name and location of school(s) you plan to attend:

School, City, State

School, City, State

School, City, State

How did you learn about the Sandhills PRIDE scholarship?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Please list involvement or leadership roles with clubs or extracurricular activities:

Please list any awards, honors, or recognitions you have received from your school or community.

Major(s), intended major(s) or area of studies:

ESSAY

Your essay should be 500 – 1000 words and should answer the following:

What accomplishments and activities have you performed to unite, celebrate, support, and serve LGBTQ people, allies, or organizations? How do you plan to make a difference in the LGBTQ community moving forward?

Attach your essay to the application form.

CERTIFICATION I certify that the information contained in this application is true.

APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED. In fairness to all applicants the Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Committee will not review any incomplete applications or applications received past the deadline of **MARCH 18, 2023**. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Applicant's Signature and Date

Applicant must submit the following documents:

- Completed application
- Unofficial high school transcript
- Essay
- Release form
- Professional headshot photograph
- Two letters of recommendation
- Copy of ID if 18 years or older

2023 Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Release Form

To be eligible for the scholarship award and to demonstrate advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community, recipients must allow Sandhills PRIDE to publish announcements of the scholarship award in the news media, social media, etc., to use the recipient's professional photograph with publicity releases about the award, and to include a photograph and short bio on social media or on our website. By signing below, you agree to these conditions.

Applicant's Signature and Date

Printed Name

*If you are under 18 years of age your parent/guardian must sign approving your above responses. If you are over the age of 18, parent/guardian signature will not be necessary, however proof of age is required--please attach.

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

Printed Name, Relationship

Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Reference Letter

*Applicant: Please give a copy of this page to each of your references – no family or friends. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure reference letters are received by the Scholarship Committee by **MARCH 18, 2023**.*

You have been given as a reference by:

Student Name

Reference name (print)

Address City State Zip

E-mail Address and Phone Number

What is your relationship with this student? (Teacher, advisor, minister, school counselor, etc.)

How long have you known this student?

The **Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship** is dedicated to assisting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gender queer/nonconforming and LGBTQ+ allied students in furthering their educations to become successful, productive adults.

What qualities does this student possess that make him/her/them a good candidate to support the LGBTQ+ community? What accomplishments, organizations, and activities has this candidate been involved in to unite, celebrate, support, and serve LGBTQ+ people or allies. Use specific examples when possible.

(Please use a separate sheet of paper.)

Printed Name

Signature and Date

This completed form and reference letter may be submitted by the applicant or to the addresses below. Reference documents must be received by **MARCH 18, 2023**. *It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure these reference letters are received by the deadline.*

Please email or mail the completed reference form directly to:

Sandhills PRIDE
Attn: Scholarship Committee
PO Box 3473
Pinehurst, NC 28374
scholarship@sandhillspide.org

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