



December 1, 2023

Re: Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Committee

Dear School Representative/Student,

We at the Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Committee hope this letter finds you well! Please find details below about the 2023-2024 application for the Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship.

We are offering one (1), \$5,000 two-year scholarship and up to two (2,) \$2,500 one-year scholarships to be used for college-related expenses (either 2-year, 4-year, or technical institution) for graduating high school seniors. These funds will be disbursed directly to the institution where the student is admitted and chooses to attend. This scholarship opportunity is open to all students, LGBTQ+ or allies, who have *demonstrated advocacy in some way for the LGBTQ+ community*. **The deadline for this year's scholarship application is Saturday, March 16, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Students may submit their applications **via mail to P.O. Box 3473, Pinehurst, NC 28374**; or by **email to scholarship@sandhillspride.org**. We look forward to reviewing this round's applications!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lauren B Mathers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren B. Mathers
Executive Director
Sandhills PRIDE
910-725-0082
lbmathers@sandhillspride.org

2024 Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Application

The mission of Sandhills PRIDE is to UNITE, CELEBRATE, and SERVE LGBTQ+ people, their allies, and sister 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; 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 2024. 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, 2025. 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 2024.
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 2024 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. Graduation headshot photograph or a professional 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, 2024. 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 16, 2024.

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***

2024 Sandhills PRIDE Scholarship Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Legal Name

Preferred 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:

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

What pronouns do you use?

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 16, 2024**. 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
- Graduation headshot (JPEG or PNG)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Copy of ID if 18 years or older

2024 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 16, 2024**.*

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 16, 2024**. *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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