

Our Mission

Who We Are

Believe in Me was established in 2006 to provide shelter, education, health care, and emotional and spiritual support for children. Our vision is to help every kid develop the self-confidence they need to succeed. With generous support from donors, we fund programs that provide marginalized kids with a safe place to call home, a family that loves them, a feeling of community, and opportunities to learn, build self-esteem, and have fun.

The Believe in Me Academic Scholarship Program

Our [scholarship program](#) empowers marginalized students on their pathways toward educational success. Our program is designed to give them access to quality education and to invest in their future. We are committed to helping students achieve their dreams and to unlock their potential.

What Expenses Does This Scholarship Cover?

The Believe in Me Academic Scholarship Program will cover the cost of tuition and fees, textbooks, and on-campus housing for up to four years. We are committed to helping students reach their educational goals by investing in their future.

Eligibility Requirements

Who Should Apply?

This scholarship program is built for students who are able to demonstrate grit and determination in overcoming adversity. We acknowledge and reward those who have already contributed to their community through extra-curricular activities, work, and religious and volunteer activities.

Unlike many other scholarship programs, this opportunity creates a pathway for students with lower GPA and test scores to pursue their academic dreams. Selection of Believe in Me scholarship winners is based on several factors, with special emphasis on each individual's character, personal merit, career goals, and background.

Successful applicants will meet the following criteria:

- First-generation post-secondary education-seeking students
- Students attending school in Washington State or N. Idaho
- Pursuing education at a two-year college, four-year college or university, independent private career school, or trade school
- 2.75 cumulative GPA in high school or a GED
- Can demonstrate leadership, grit, and perseverance
- Belong to any of the following marginalized groups
 - American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islanders, Multi-race, Immigrant Families
 - Living in a household below the poverty line, experiencing food insecurity, or are without housing
 - Adopted, aged out of the foster care system, living in foster care, or wards of the state
 - Students living with a disability, mental health issues, substance abuse disorder
 - Students with incarcerated parents, unemployed parents, parents who did not graduate from high school or did not attend college
 - Students of differing sexual orientation or gender identity
 - Pregnant teens and single-parent students
 - Students experiencing domestic violence, abuse, or trauma; and survivors of human trafficking
- Able to provide a recommendation from two community references
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities, work, religious, or volunteer activities.

Important Dates

IMPORTANT DATES

March 15	Application Deadline
April 1	Award Letters Sent
May 6	Awards Ceremony
Varies	Verification of Enrollment Forms Due Before the Start of Academic Term

Application Checklist

STEP ONE: Attend the Info Session (Optional)	Submit questions about the application process by 5:00 pm PST on Thursday, Feb. 16 to admin@believeinme.org . The info session will cover all questions and provide how-to tutorials for the application process. Use the link on our Scholarship Page to add the session to your calendar.
STEP TWO: Gather Documents	Download, print, and sign the Family Authorization Form . If you are over 18, you may sign the form yourself. Use the signed form to request Unofficial Transcripts from your school. You'll need to scan and upload the Family Request Form and Unofficial Transcripts in step four.
STEP THREE: Record Video	Get creative and have fun. Make a video about your "Believe in Me" story, including who first believed in you, how it has shaped you today, and what role this plays for your future goals. You'll need this for the next step! Max 3 minutes.
STEP FOUR: Student Information	Fill in your student information form right away to get the process started! If you don't have time to complete the entire form, you can save your progress and come back to it at a later time. We will email you a link to resume where you left off. Don't wait until the week before the deadline or it may be too late to gather everything you need. Remember, we don't contact your references until you submit the form.
STEP FIVE: Write Your Essay	Use your creative writing skills to really showcase who you are and what sets you apart from the other candidates. Max 250 words or 1,000 characters per question.
STEP SIX: Get Recommended	Upon submission of your application, Believe in Me will send instructions to your references via email. We strongly encourage you to periodically reach out to them as applications without recommendations will not be considered.
FINAL STEP: Complete Application	Be sure to read your emails and submit all the required items by the due date. Deadline is Mar. 15 Once all the required materials are submitted, your application will be forwarded to the Scholarship Committee for review.

Read the instructions below, then click on the link to record and submit your video.

Please tell us your Believe in Me story.

- Share your name and why you have chosen to apply for the Believe in Me Scholarship.
- Tell us about the first person who really believed in you.
- How did their support change your perspective of yourself?
- How has believing in yourself given you the self-confidence you'll need to attain your future goals?

[CLICK HERE](#) to record and submit your video. Once you submit your application, we will attach the video to your packet.

I have submitted my video.*



Please provide us with some information about yourself.

First Name*

Middle Name

Last Name*

Mailing City*

Mailing Street*

Mailing State/Province*

Mailing Zip/Postal Code*

Mobile Phone*

Email*

Last Four Digits of SSN*

Birthdate*

Please select all of the group(s) that best describe you:*

- American Indian**
- Alaska Native**
- Asian**
- African American**
- Hispanic or Latino**
- Native Hawaiian**
- Other Pacific Islanders**
- Multi-race**
- Immigrant**
- Live in a household below the poverty line**
- Experienced food insecurity**
- Lived without housing**
- Adopted**
- Aged out of the foster care system**
- Been in foster care**
- Ward of the state**
- Living with a disability**
- Mental health issues**
- Substance abuse disorder**
- Incarcerated parent**
- Unemployed parent**
- Parents did not graduate from high school or did not attend college**
- Differing sexual orientation or gender identity**
- Pregnant teen or single-parent**
- Experienced domestic violence, abuse, or trauma**
- Survivor of human trafficking**

Please check this box if you have received a scholarship from Believe in Me in the past.

>>>HAVE YOU SAVED YOUR APPLICATION? Be sure to save your progress frequently! You'll receive a link via email to pick up where you left off whenever it's convenient for you.

Please provide us with information about your parent or guardian.

If you are over the age of 18, please type "N/A" in the name fields and your own email and phone number to proceed with your application.

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name*

Email

Mobile Phone

Mailing Street

Description Area

Mailing City

Mailing State/Province

Mailing Zip/Postal Code

Be sure to download, print, and have your parents sign the Family Authorization Form.

To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a school must obtain authorization prior to releasing student information to others.

Remember the [Family Authorization form](#)?
Make sure it's filled out and upload it here.*

School College and Career Counselor Contact Information

If you do not have a school counselor or are no longer in school, please type "N/A" in the name fields and your own email and phone number to proceed with your application.

Current School Name

Counselor First Name

Counselor Last Name*

Counselor Work Email

Counselor Work Phone

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Upload Unofficial Transcripts from your school.

How to Get an Unofficial Copy of Your Transcript

School Website

You can typically generate an unofficial transcript instantly on your school's website. Some schools have portals right on their website, while others have grade-keeping software that runs through their website. With these tools, you can generate an unofficial transcript in a few minutes.

Email

You can also request a transcript by emailing your guidance counselor. Make sure to include where you want the unofficial transcript sent. This can be a great way to get the transcript you need quickly and easily.

Counselor's Office

Your guidance counselor is always there to give you support. If you are having trouble generating or requesting an unofficial transcript, don't worry! Just reach out to your guidance counselor and they will help you out.

Once you've received your Unofficial Transcripts, upload them here to have them included in your scholarship application.*

Using the transcripts you've uploaded, please provide us with your GPA. Please use the following format: Examples: 3.75, 3.00, 3.01

If your GPA is lower than 3.0, please provide any extenuating circumstances that you'd like us to consider.

Starting with your current school, please list the schools that you have attended in the last three years.

Please list them in chronological order, with the most recent listed first.

School Name*

City and State/Province*

Dates Attended*

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**Click +Add Item to Enter
Another School**



[+ add item](#)

List any advanced placement, special courses, dual enrollment, or summer courses you have taken in the last three years.

Please list the most recent course or program first:

Course or Program Name

School Name

School City and State/Province

Dates Attended

Hours per Week

**Click +Add Item to Enter
More Coursework**



[+ add item](#)

List the activities or organizations with which you have been involved and your position(s) for the past three years only.

List information in order of year and do not duplicate information or submit additional materials, as they will not be considered. Also, include school-related clubs, Interscholastic Athletics, etc.

Dates From/To

Hours Participated to Date

Activity or Organization

Position Held

>>>HAVE YOU SAVED YOUR APPLICATION? Be sure to save your progress frequently! You'll receive a link via email to pick up where you left off whenever it's convenient for you.

Click **+Add Item to Enter More Activities**



[+ add item](#)

Community Service (Unpaid): List the organization(s) where you have served and activities performed for the past three years only.

Dates From/To

Total Hours Participated to Date

Organization Served

Activities Performed

Description Area

**Click +Add Item to Enter
More Community Service**



[+ add item](#)

List your employer(s) and job responsibilities held for the past three years only.

Dates From/To

Total Hours Participated to Date

Employer Name

Job Responsibilities

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**Click +Add Item to Enter
More Work Experience**



[+ add item](#)

List awards and honors received for the past three years only.

Date

Description of award or honor received

Click **+Add Item to Enter More Awards and Honors**



[+ add item](#)

Please list any Advance Placement (AP), Capstone, Running Start Courses and Scores (If taken)

Course Name

Score

Click **+Add Item to Enter More AP, Capstone, & Running Start**



[+ add item](#)

Tell us about your future plans.

Please share the primary education and career path you are pursuing.

STEM Career

Enter details if you selected other.

Please select your current top choice of school.

Note: you will be able to change this option later if you are selected for a scholarship.*

Enter details if you selected other.

Tips and Recommendations for a Successful Essay

We are looking forward to reading your essay and learning more about you.

The best approach to writing your essay is to frame up your responses in a clear, concise manner that stays within the 250-word limit.

Each essay prompt is designed for a particular purpose; stay focused and answer each question as directly and succinctly as possible, using relevant examples and evidence to support your claims.

Edit and Revise: Check your drafts for grammar, spelling, punctuation, clarity of thought, and conciseness of language. Make sure to streamline your essays by eliminating any unnecessary information or repetitions.

Get Feedback: Take the time to ask a trusted friend, teacher, mentor, or advisor for feedback and suggestions on your essay drafts. A fresh set of eyes may be able to catch errors you missed.

Describe your life's goals and objectives and how your course of study will contribute to your future career plans. Why have you chosen this path?

*Ideas for your essay

- Describe your short and long-term goals, aspirations, and objectives for life.
- Explain how you plan to achieve these goals, and why they are important to you.
- Highlight any successes or accomplishments that demonstrate progress towards these goals.
- Demonstrate how the skills, knowledge, and experience you will gain in your course of study will contribute to your future career plans.
- Showcase what makes this field of study attractive to you and how it fits into your larger career plans

Please copy and paste your typed response into the form field.*

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How have you demonstrated grit and determination to overcome challenges in your life?

***Ideas for your essay**

- Talk about a time when you overcame an obstacle or faced adversity and kept going despite the odds.
- Discuss how you have gone above and beyond to achieve a goal, even after encountering numerous roadblocks.
- Explain how you used your creativity, problem-solving skills, or resourcefulness to find new solutions and paths forward.
- Describe how you have shown resilience even in the face of major challenges or setbacks.
- Share a story that highlights your commitment, perseverance, and drive to reach a difficult goal.

Your essays should demonstrate style, depth, breadth of knowledge and individuality. **Max 250 words or 1,000 characters.**

Please copy and paste your typed response into the form field.*

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Many people have influenced and mentored you throughout your life. Describe the person who has impacted your life the most and how they have helped you to believe in yourself.

Don't worry if you don't have a mentor who has inspired you to believe in yourself.

- This can be a great opportunity to think outside the box
- Consider looking around you and finding someone in your life who has shown dedication, passion, resilience, or another quality that inspires you
- It could be a public figure, an older relative, a close family friend, a teacher, or a coach in your community – the possibilities are endless
- Be sure to explain why you feel connected to this person and how their story has helped you to believe in yourself

Your essays should demonstrate style, depth, breadth of knowledge and individuality. **Max 250 words or 1,000 characters.**

Please copy and paste your typed response into the form field.*

Explain why you are the best candidate for this award.

***Ideas for Your Essay**

- Showcase why your background, experience, and skill set make you uniquely qualified for this scholarship program
- Explain how receiving this award would make a difference in your life and what it could do to further your education or career
- Highlight your academic and extracurricular accomplishments: Showcase any awards, certifications, or accolades that you have achieved in school or the community
- Demonstrate your commitment to the goal of this organization: Explain how you have demonstrated a passion for the mission of this scholarship program and why you are dedicated to achieving its goals

Your essays should demonstrate style, depth, breadth of knowledge and individuality. **Max 250 words or 1,000 characters.**

Please copy and paste your typed response into the form field.*

>>>HAVE YOU SAVED YOUR APPLICATION? Be sure to save your progress frequently! You'll receive a link via email to pick up where you left off whenever it's convenient for you.

Please provide us with contact information for your academic recommendation.

Some examples of appropriate academic recommendations are a past or present teacher, school staff, an academic mentor, tutor, vocational instructor, or guidance counselor.

Your academic recommendation is part of your confidential file intended for use by the Scholarship Committee. It is very important that your academic recommendation is submitted by your reference before Mar. 15 so that it may be included with your full application. We strongly encourage you to periodically reach out to your reference as applications without recommendations will not be considered.

First Name*

Last Name*

Work Email*

Work Phone*

Please provide us with contact information for your personal reference.

Some examples of appropriate personal recommendations are past or present employer, co-worker, coach, mentor, pastor, or neighbor.

Your personal recommendation is part of your confidential file intended for use by the Scholarship Committee. It is very important that your personal recommendation is submitted by your reference before Mar. 15 so that it may be included with your full application. We strongly encourage you to periodically reach out to your reference as applications without recommendations will not be considered.

First Name*

Last Name*

Email*

Mobile Phone*

If your scholarship application is approved, you will be subject to the following Terms and Conditions:

- Allow the Foundation to review records to verify your activities.
- Provide written acknowledgment of receipt of payments.
- Repay any portion of the funds not used for the specified purposes.
- Refrain from the use of the funds for any purpose prohibited by law.
- Cooperate with any efforts of the Foundation to publicize the award.
- Comply with reasonable requests for information about program activities.

I agree to terms and services

Full Name *

Date *