



Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Region
佛教慈濟基金會新澤西分會

January 8, 2024

Dear Principal and College Counselor:

Tzu Chi Foundation is pleased to announce that its scholarship program, **Tzu Chi Scholars 2024**, is now accepting applications. All the high school graduating seniors are encouraged to apply. Tzu Chi Scholars are selected on the basis of financial need, academic achievement, and community involvement. This is a nationwide program and each scholar will be awarded a total of \$1,500 dollars.

The scholarship application form, procedure, and flyer are enclosed. Please feel free to make extra copies of the application form and flyer as needed. Applications can also be downloaded from the Tzu Chi website at <http://www.tzuchi.us>. Please note that the deadline for the Scholarship is **March 16, 2024**. Applicants should mail the completed application form and the supporting documents to the regional Tzu Chi office listed on the application.

Should you have any questions, please visit Tzu Chi website at <http://www.tzuchi.us> or contact our program coordinator, Lei Sheu, at 724-309-7809.

Sincerely,

Doris Chang

Doris Chang
Executive Director
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Region



Tzu Chi Scholars 2024

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

\$1,500 NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.

Tzu Chi Scholars is a scholarship program funded by Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation to recognize and provide financial assistance to outstanding college-bound high school graduates. Tzu Chi Scholars are selected on the basis of their financial need, academic achievement, and community involvement. Each Scholar will receive an award of \$1,500. In Chinese, “tzu” means compassion and “chi” means relief. Founded in 1966 by Dharma Master Cheng Yen, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation has dedicated itself to the areas of charitable services, medical services, education and environmental protection. Guided by the four basic Buddhist principles of kindness, compassion, joy, and unselfish giving, Tzu Chi strives to ease suffering on earth and to inspire compassion in others by promoting community volunteerism, both locally and internationally. Through sincerity, integrity, trust, and honesty, Tzu Chi volunteers serve all who need assistance, regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. In addition, Tzu Chi has established bone marrow registries and provides services for international relief. Please visit our website at www.tzuchi.us.

Eligibility

1. Demonstrates **financial need** for college tuition
2. Is a U.S. high school graduating senior or equivalent
3. Has a minimum 3.0 GPA
4. Will enroll in an accredited U.S. college full-time for the entire academic year 2024-2025

Documents Required

1. A completed Tzu Chi Scholarship application form
2. An official high school transcript
3. A copy of one of the three following document(s) demonstrating financial need:
 - a. Family's complete set of 2023 1040 U.S. Income Tax Return including all schedules, or
 - b. Family's complete set of 2022 1040 U.S. Income Tax Return including all schedules and most recent 2023 W-2, or
 - c. Any official documentation which serves as proof of financial hardship
4. Two letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, and/or other advisors
5. A typed autobiography (minimum two pages) that explains why you should be awarded a scholarship. Please include all of the following:
 - Reason for your financial need and application for this educational scholarship
 - Your personal and academic achievements with specific examples
 - Your academic and career plans with specific goals
 - Your past and current involvement, as well as future plans, towards making a difference in your community
6. A one-page short essay about Tzu Chi, based on the information you've gathered from websites, publications, news articles, etc. Please explain what you have learned about Tzu Chi that inspires you in any way. Express your thoughts openly and honestly.

*** Only applications which include the complete set of required documents mentioned above will be considered.**

**** For scholarship application and information, please visit our website at www.tzuchi.us.**

***** Recipients of the scholarship will be announced by mail in May, 2024.**

Application Process & Award Announcement

1. Please send your application package to the following Tzu Chi Foundation Office and indicate:

Attn: Tzu Chi Scholars Program

**Tzu Chi Foundation Pittsburgh Service Center
1333 Banksville Rd #201
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Tel: 724-309-7809**

2. The application form and supporting documents must be received by **March 16, 2024**.
3. A home visit or interview is **required** in the application process.

*** Tzu Chi Scholars will be honored at the Scholarship Award Ceremony at the nearest Tzu Chi Regional Office in June. The \$1,500 award will be directly deposited in the account of the student's college of choice when all forms are completed and processed.**



Tzu Chi Scholars 2024

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Scholarship Application Form Application Deadline: March 16, 2024

* Please PRINT clearly

APPLICANT			
Name	Last	First	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
			Social Security No.
Address			Date of Birth MM/DD/YY
			Home Phone ()
			Cell Phone ()
Parent or Guardian			Student's E-mail
High School			High School Address
Counselor			High School Phone Number
College You Plan to Attend			Planned Major
GPA	Ethnic Group (Optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> African American, Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American (original country _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Asian (country _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic, Latino (country _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American, Chicano	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American, Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
Extracurricular Activities in HS			
Financial Documents Included		<input type="checkbox"/> 1040 U.S. Tax Return <input type="checkbox"/> Others _____	
Household Income:			Number of People in Your Household
<input type="checkbox"/> Below \$15,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,001-\$30,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,001-\$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> above \$50,000			
REFERENCES			
Name	Relationship	Phone Number	Address
I certify that the information contained in this application is true.			
Applicant's Signature _____			Date _____