

Equality Cincinnati

2011 Courage Scholarship Application



Equality Cincinnati

The mission of Equality Cincinnati is *to work for full equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in Greater Cincinnati and to prevent discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.*

Equality Cincinnati is an independent local organization dedicated to making change here where we live. Equality Cincinnati welcomes everyone who believes in our mission to join us.

LGBTQ Courage Scholarship Award

The name of Equality Cincinnati's Scholarship is simple: it is about COURAGE. This word was chosen as because it is a key identifying characteristic of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in Cincinnati. It is a trait that we see in our youth and young adults growing up in Cincinnati and contending with homophobia and heterosexism. As responsible, caring adults and members of Equality Cincinnati, we extend a supportive hand to our youth and acknowledge the courage it takes to be who you are and make a stand for change here in your community. As part of that recognition, Equality Cincinnati is providing a \$1,000 Scholarship to a member of the LGBTQ/ally community who exemplifies courage and leadership.

Scholarship Application Criteria & Evaluation Factors

This donor-restricted fund provides financial assistance to LGBTQ youth and young adults and allies entering or currently in academic post-secondary institutions. Factors evaluated by the scholarship committee include:

- Student must be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or an openly supportive ally to the LGBTQ community.
- Student's essay describes ability to overcome adversity, description of a leader, and courage
- Student's commitment to service
- Student must have recommendation letter from one other person familiar with her or his achievements.
- Student must demonstrate leadership among peers and a commitment to LGBTQ issues.
- Scholarships will be awarded upon **proof of enrollment** at a post-secondary institution or college.
- Cash awards will be paid directly to the college or university of admission

The following must be submitted for scholarship consideration:

- Completed application
- Completed essay
- One letter of recommendation from a person familiar with applicant's achievements, including contact information for the recommendor).

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Essay

Questions

On a separate piece of paper, write a personal statement to answer the following questions. Maximum response for each essay is 500 words.

1. **What is the greatest challenge or hardship that you have faced in your life?**

How has it affected who you are and decisions you have made? How has it affected your life goals? Examples may include, but are not limited to: bullying; harassment; homophobia; losing a family member or lack of family support; struggles with poverty; any other challenges.

2. **What does “COURAGE” mean to you?**

How have you had to use courage in your life? Please share your personal experience. How has courage shape who you are today? If someone was going through a similar experience that you had to go through, what would you tell them that would help them through it?

3. **What does “LEADERSHIP” mean to you?**

Who have been role models for leadership? What do you think are the greatest traits needed in order to be an effective leader? How can you help others be a leader for our community?

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Please fill out the information below.

Personal Information		
<i>Name</i> _____		
Last	First	Middle
<i>Address, City, State</i> _____		
<i>Zip</i> _____	<i>Phone</i> _____	<i>Cell</i> _____
<i>Email</i> _____	<i>Birth Date</i> _____	

College Information	
<p><i>What is your proposed college major?</i></p> <p><i>To which schools have you applied?</i></p> <p><i>Or, what school are you already in?</i></p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Please list any awards/honors you have received (from school or community organizations).

<i>Name of Award/Honor</i>	<i>Year Received</i>	<i>Reason Received</i>

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<i>Organization</i>	<i>Volunteer Role/Activity</i>	<i>Hours Volunteered or Dates of Service</i>

*Applicant's
Signature*

Date

Please submit all of the above information in one envelope, addressed to:

Equality Cincinnati Courage Scholarship Committee
318 East Fourth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POST MARKED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011.

All information will be kept confidential.

For questions or more information, please call **513-317-7727**.

Thank you and good luck!