

The Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund Summer Enrichment Scholarship Application Guidelines

The Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund Summer Enrichment Scholarship (SES) seeks to support college students who are graduates of Webutuck Central School and who demonstrate academic achievement, potential for intellectual growth and commitment to community involvement.

We wish to make it possible for students to undertake an educational experience of personal and intellectual growth that will enable them to cultivate a sense of curiosity about the world and enhance their ability to serve others in a leadership capacity.

Webutuck graduates who are enrolled in college will be able to take advantage of an unusual learning opportunity - one which may not otherwise be possible for the student - by underwriting the cost of that educational experience to an amount up to \$5,000.

Without intending to limit the choice or creativity of scholarship applicants, the following are suggested ideas around which an applicant might construct a scholarship application:

1. Involvement in a service project of a local, national or international nature.
2. Travel in conjunction with a particular area of study.

Violet H. Simmons Fund Summer
Enrichment Scholarships
Berkshire Taconic Community
Foundation

271 Main Street, Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA
01230-1606

t: 413.528.8039 f: 413.528.8158 e:
info@berkshiretaconic.org

W: www.berkshiretaconic.org

3. Internship in a field of interest in the private, public or nonprofit sector for which the pay would be insufficient without the scholarship.
4. Independent Study project that could not be pursued without the scholarship.

Areas of study, work or service may include but are not limited to the arts, government, ecology, history, literature, the sciences, children or youth.

Eligibility

Applications are accepted from students who have graduated from Webutuck Central School and who will be enrolled in their second or third year at an accredited college or who will be enrolled in the second year of a two year accredited college course for the school year 2006/2007. (Students who are enrolled in a two-year course and are planning to transfer to a four-year school should wait to apply until their second or third year.) A student need not have applied for the Violet H. Simmons Scholarship while a senior at Webutuck in order to be eligible to apply. Programs are not required to take place during summer if the student's college operates on a trimester schedule.

Applications are accepted for projects that provide college credit if the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed project will provide him or her with an extraordinarily enriching experience, above and beyond his or her traditional study program.

Awards

Awards depend on the amount available from the fund and may range up to \$5,000. Awards may be deferred for up to twelve months but the funded projects must have taken place by the time the applicant begins his or her final year of college. Undergraduates will have

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two opportunities to apply but, if funded once, may not reapply.

Deadline

Completed applications must be postmarked on or before **November 15th, 2006**.

The address to which to send applications is:
Violet H. Simmons Fund Summer Enrichment Scholarships
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
271 Main Street, Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA 01230

To Apply

Complete the attached application form and send it to the above address along with:

- An essay on what your own goals are in relation to your proposal and how your request meets the vision of the Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund Summer Enrichment Scholarships.
- A copy of your college transcript including grades from the most recently completed semester.
- Two letters of recommendation from a recent teacher, counselor, community leader or employer.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees of the Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund. The Board will interview finalists in December or January.

Review Criteria

The Board will review requests for scholarships according to the following criteria:

- The potential impact of the educational experience on the applicant

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- The potential for the project to develop the applicant's intellectual curiosity
- The potential for the project to develop the applicant's leadership potential
- The potential for the project to provide or lead to community or humanitarian service, not necessarily in the Webutuck school community.
- Applicant's demonstration of ability to fulfill the project as planned.

Notification

Applicants will be informed of the Foundation's decision by January 31st.

Reporting Requirements

Recipients of Summer Enrichment Scholarships will be required to meet with the Simmons Scholarship Board of Trustees upon completion of their projects to report on how their educational experience has helped them meet their goals as expressed in their application.

Questions

Please contact Maeve O'Dea, Program Director, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation at 800-969-2823 or by email at maeve@berkshiretaconic.org

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for philanthropy. Our mission is to improve the quality of life in Berkshire, MA; Columbia and northeast Dutchess, NY; and northwest Litchfield, CT counties. We provide creative leadership by identifying current and future needs in our communities. Since 1987, families, individuals and community groups have been establishing permanent charitable funds, which we administer and invest. Berkshire Taconic is proud to

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serve as steward for the Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund, seeking to improve the quality of life for graduates of Webutuck School.

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Violet H. Simmons
Scholarship Fund
Summer Enrichment
Scholarships
Application for the
School Year 2006-2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Age: _____ Social Security # _____

College attending: _____

Intended/Declared Major: _____

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Second or Third Year in 2006/2007: _____

Name of Summer Enrichment Program Institution, if applicable: _____

City, State: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please submit a brochure or up to two pages of information describing the organization, the employer, or the program.

Description of project for which this scholarship is requested (include location, date, destination, goals, etc.). You may include up to two extra pages if needed.

Detailed Budget. Specify the amount requested and how it will be used.

Please note that VHSSF can only pay documented costs, such as the program fee, airfare, or lodging expenses. General living expenses such as food, museum entry fees, entertainment, etc. are not eligible (unless included in the program fee) and are the responsibility of the applicant.

Expense	Estimated Cost	Amount Requested from VHSSF	Source of Funds to pay balance of cost
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			e.g. savings, family, employment
Program Fee			
Travel (e.g. airfare, Europass)			
Lodging (Specify type: e.g. youth hostel, hotel)			
Insurance Medical Travel			
Books or equipment for program			
Other (please specify)			
Total Requested			

The information submitted above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. The Board of Trustees of the Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund reserves the right to modify or revoke any funding decisions if information is withheld or misrepresented. I understand that the information will be treated confidentially by the Board.

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Signature of applicant _____

Date_____

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The following list provides examples of projects that would be eligible for funding and of organizations offering summer enrichment programs. This listing is provided for informational purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation/Violet Simmons Scholarship Fund. Applicants are encouraged to consider this as a starting point in research on summer programs. Your college may also have information on these and other programs.

Examples of eligible projects:

- Internship at a company or organization that will enable you to focus on a particular area of study. In this case the SES could provide payment (through the organization) to you so that you would be able to do this work and earn income.
- Work or study at a nonprofit organization, local or otherwise, that will contribute to the community.
- A study program either in the U.S. or abroad either through an organization or a self-designed project that will develop your intellectual curiosity and leadership skills.

Examples of local nonprofit organizations:

North East Community Center, South Center Street, Millerton
NY 12546

Phone: 518 789 4259 Email: necc@taconic.net

Tri-Arts, Sharon Playhouse, PO Box 1187, Sharon, CT 06069
Phone: 860 435 6414.

Harlem Valley Rail Trail, P.O. Box 356, Millerton, NY 12546
Email: hvrta@taconic.net

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Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm & Home Center, 2715
Route 44, Suite 1, Millbrook, NY 12545
Phone 845 677 8223 email: dutchess@cornell.edu

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American Field Service
71 West 23rd Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10010
Telephone: 1 212 807 8686
Facsimile: 1 212 807 1001
Web Site: <http://www.afs.org>

AFS is a non-profit, volunteer-based educational organization offering exchanges among more than 50 countries around the world. More than 10,700 students, young adults and teachers participate in AFS exchange programs annually. Opportunities for language learning, cultural immersion, new friendships and personal growth are core to the AFS experience.

World Learning
Kipling Road
P.O. Box 676
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0676
Phone: (802) 257-7751 Toll Free Within the US: (800) 257-7751
www.worldlearning.org

Founded in 1932 as The U.S. Experiment in International Living, World Learning is the only international organization with both academic and project capabilities dedicated to promoting international education, social justice, and world peace. Through distinctive educational methods based on experiential learning and the integration of theory and practice, the programs of World Learning build knowledge, develop leaders in education and management, contribute to global development, and effect change.

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Global Routes
1 Short Street
Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: (413) 585-8895 Fax: (413) 585-8810
www.globalroutes.org

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All Global Routes programs follow the same basic model:
Orientation : While exploring the environment, culture and history of their host country, students participate in a variety of activities in preparation for their upcoming village experience.
Homestay/Service Project : While living as a member of a family and immersing themselves in the everyday life of the village, students work on primary and secondary service projects alongside community members. Typically, high school projects are construction-based, while the primary work of college volunteers is teaching in local schools.
Final Travel : While reflecting on the program's experiences and how they will integrate it into their life back home, students embark on a journey throughout the region's rich natural and cultural landscapes.

American Institute for Foreign Study
River Plaza, 9 West Broad Street, Stamford, CT, 06902-3788
Phone 800-727-AIFS (2437)
www.aifs.com

In affiliation with 18 international universities, AIFS annually organizes study abroad programs for more than 5,000 American students during the academic year and the summer. All courses are for academic credit. AIFS works closely with 500 American colleges and universities providing students and faculty with high quality educational experiences abroad. AIFS also arranges study abroad programs for 80 American universities and colleges on a partnership basis, providing housing, transportation, classrooms, meals, student services and cultural activities. Faculty from U.S. institutions participating in this program teach their own courses at AIFS centers.

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July 27th, 2006

Dear Student

What are you doing next summer? It's not too early to think about it. Is there something you'd really like to do but aren't sure you can afford to? We'd like to help you do something that will introduce you to new people and ideas, or enable you to provide a service to an organization in your community, or let you explore something you've always wondered about but never had the time. This is the point in your life to take that chance....reach for that star.....have fun and....grow.

We encourage you to see if your college has an office that helps students with their summer plans. If so, go see them. Tell them about this program and ask them for help and ideas about how to effectively apply for it.

The trustees of the Violet H. Simmons Scholarship Fund are willing to meet with you in August to discuss your ideas and to advise you on how to turn your ideas into a plan of action. The trustees' contact information is attached.

The application and supporting information are enclosed. If you are enrolled in a two-year course, you are eligible to apply now for the summer of 2007, i.e. the summer between your first and second years. However, if you are planning to transfer to a four-year school, please wait to apply until next year or the following year. We advise this because you will be competing against students in a four-year program who, being older and having had more time in school, may be better able to define an enrichment experience that would make a significant impact on themselves and their career. But if your studies will be completed in two years and you have a strong desire and motivation to undertake an enrichment experience, please do apply.

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The application must be submitted to us no later than **November 15, 2006**. We will review the applications and select finalists to interview. Interviews will be conducted in late December or early January. Selections will be announced no later than **January 31, 2007**.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Ed Downey
Secretary, Simmons Scholarship Board of Trustees

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