

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

'A Service Sorority Founded in 1913'

Decatur Alumnae Chapter

P.O. Box 370673

Decatur, Georgia 30037-0673

www.dstdac.org

Decatur Alumnae Chapter Scholarship Guidelines 2015 - 2016

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I. Purpose of Scholarships

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is a public service sorority that is committed to educational excellence. We believe in the importance of fostering the potential and accomplishments of high achieving African-American students. The Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is offering financial assistance to outstanding students pursuing higher education to help defray the cost of their education. These scholarships are designed to provide assistance to high school students who demonstrate ability, aptitude, community service, church involvement, and a promising scholastic future.

Students in their senior year of high school who are planning to attend an accredited institution of higher learning and who are residents of Decatur Alumnae's service area, which includes certain portions of DeKalb County and Gwinnett County, are given the opportunity to apply for these scholarships during the current academic school year. A student is defined as an African-American high school senior who may or may not be the child of a financial sorority member of Decatur Alumnae Chapter.

II. List of Service Area High Schools

The following is a listing of public high schools that are located in the Decatur Alumnae Chapter's service area. The schools are located in DeKalb County, and include Decatur, Tucker, Dunwoody, Chamblee, Doraville, Ellenwood, Clarkston, Scottdale and East Atlanta (DeKalb County); and additional portions of Gwinnett County to include Norcross only.

- Cedar Grove High School
- Chamblee High School
- Clarkston High School
- Columbia High School
- Cross Keys High School
- Decatur High School
- DeKalb School of the Arts
- Druid Hills High School
- Dunwoody High School
- Elizabeth Andrews High School
- Lakeside High School
- McNair High School
- Meadowcreek High School
- Norcross High School
- Southwest DeKalb High School
- Towers High School
- Tucker High School
- Private Schools within the Decatur Alumnae Chapter's Service Area

III. Scholarship Guidelines/Criteria

1. A student's eligibility for scholarship is based on the student's intent to seek a degree at any 4 year accredited institution.
2. Recipients are not selected on the basis of scholarship alone but also on the following factors: extra-curricular school activities, community service, church involvement, and scholastic achievement.
3. Application forms are available on November 2, 2015 and will be distributed to all high school principals and counselors within Decatur Alumnae Chapter's service area. Completed application forms must be **signed** and **postmarked** no later than **February 1, 2016**. The completed application with supporting documents should be mailed to: **Scholarship Committee, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Decatur Alumnae Chapter, P.O. Box 370673, Decatur, GA 30037-0673**
4. Scholarships will be awarded to the top three students who will receive the highest amounts in descending increments, for example, \$4,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500. The remaining funds will be allocated as book stipends and equally distributed to students ranking in 4th place and below.
5. Scholarship funds will be released once the student has provided their class schedule from their respective college or university to the Scholarship Committee.
6. Scholarships are limited to freshmen students who must provide documentation of college registration and enter school before **December 31st** of the scholarship award year. Unclaimed funds will be forfeited.
7. Only completed applications will be accepted. The completed application packet consists of the following information:
 - ◆ The completed and **signed** Scholarship Application
 - ◆ An essay not to exceed 500 words on one (1) of the following topics:
 - A. Nowadays nothing is private; our culture has become confessional and self-expressive. Should people make more of an effort to keep some things private? Why or Why not?
 - B. What are you willing to do, as an individual, to reduce the amount of killings among our young, African American males? How does this kind of behavior personally affect you and how has it affected your life?

*****This essay should be typed. Please be sure to place your name & the title of your essay in the header of each page.***

 - ◆ An official, certified high school transcript, which **must include the Cumulative G.P.A.**
 - ◆ A **sealed** letter of recommendation **on school letterhead** from a high school official at the school you attend.
 - ◆ **One, typed, signed** and **sealed** community service verification letter indicating **duties performed** and **total volunteer hours**.

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8. Once the completed application has been reviewed, students are required to participate in a mandatory *panel* interview on **Saturday, March 26, 2016**. Please note that this will be the **only** interview date for the Scholarship Competition. The interview will assess your delivery - overall appearance and composure, eye contact, body language and enunciation; knowledge of written essay and response to questions regarding your essay. **The dress code for candidates is professional business attire.**
9. Scholarship and book stipend award letters will be presented on **Saturday, May 7, 2016** to the students at the Scholarship Recipient Awards Breakfast. **Students or their parents must be present at the Scholarship Recipient Awards Breakfast in order to receive the scholarship or book stipend.**
10. Students must have a **cumulative G.P.A. of 2.7** on a **4.0** scale. If the applicant's school does not have the cumulative GPA printed on the transcript as a numeric value, **an official letter from the counselor or administrator must accompany the transcript stating the numeric cumulative GPA. Transcripts without the numeric cumulative GPA or official letter stating the numeric cumulative GPA will be disqualified.**
11. Because of the number of students applying for scholarships each year, the primary form of communication will be through e-mail. On your scholarship application, please list a current e-mail address for you and a parent. If your e-mail address changes, please notify us.

IV. Scholarship Awards Decision Process/Scoring

The completed packet will be scored by members of the Decatur Alumnae Chapter Scholarship Committee. The interviews will be conducted by a panel of judges who are college graduates and represent various professions. The panel will **not** consist of any member of the Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

On a scale of 100 points candidates will be scored on the following criteria:

- 1. GPA Score: 15 Points Maximum**
- 2. Written Essay: 30 Points Maximum**
- 3. Community Service Verification: 20 Maximum**
- 4. Personal Interview: 35 Points Maximum**

*****A candidate must receive a minimum of 75 points to be considered for a scholarship award or book stipend*****

V. Scholarship Application Deadline Dates

November 2, 2015	Application Distributed to the Area High Schools
January 9, 2016	Interview Prep session at the Community Achievement Center from 10am -12pm
February 1, 2016	Scholarship Applications Due: Must be postmarked by February 1, 2016
February 26, 2016	Letter of Notification Sent to Competing Students
March 26, 2016	Scholarship Competition: Mandatory interviews for Students
May 7, 2016	Scholarship Breakfast: Scholarships and Book Stipends Awarded

*The interview prep session is highly encouraged but not required and will take place at
4522 Flat Shoals Pkwy. Decatur, GA 30034

2015-2016 Scholarship Application

* Please Print or Type this Application

Personal Information:

Applicant's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____

Student's e-mail address _____

Date of Birth _____

For tracking purposes, please indicate whether you are currently involved in either of these Delta Sigma Theta sponsored activities in the Decatur Alumnae Chapter: GEMS EMBODI

Academic Information:

Name of high school _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average (Must be 2.7 or above on a 4.0 scale) _____

Have you taken the SAT and/or ACT? Yes or No Score: _____

Extracurricular Activities:

List your extra-curricular activities. Indicate your years of participation and any offices held.

Honors and Awards:

List any honors and awards.

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Community Service:

Please include 1 community service verification letter detailing your involvement and length of service. Letter must be on signed and on official letterhead from the organization you served.

Employment:

List the employer, position, and dates of employment.

College/University:

List (in order of preference) the Colleges/Universities where you have applied and or been accepted.

Course of Study:

What course of study do you plan to pursue?

Certification:

I certify that the above information is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and that the essay submitted is my own work. I understand that I may be disqualified if any submitted information is found to be false. In the event I am eligible to continue in the competition or awarded a scholarship or book stipend, I give the Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. permission to take my picture, use my name and award amount in publicity materials.

Applicant Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Essay Topics

GUIDELINES: Essay not to exceed 500 words on *one (1)* of the following topics. This essay should be typed and grammatically correct. Please be sure to place your name & the title of your essay in the header of *each* page.

ESSAY A:

Nowadays nothing is private; our culture has become confessional and self-expressive. Should people make more of an effort to keep some things private? Why or Why not?

ESSAY B:

What are you willing to do, as an individual, to reduce the amount of killings among our young, African American males? How does this kind of behavior personally affect you and how has it affected your life?

VII. Checklist:

DID YOU REMEMBER TO:

- Sign your application
- Have your parent/guardian sign your application
- Include the 2 fully completed pages of your application
- Include your typed essay
- Include your signed and sealed letter of recommendation or have it submitted on your behalf
- Include your signed and sealed community service verification
- Include an official transcript or official letter stating numeric Cumulative GPA
- Application is postmarked by **February 1, 2016**

KEEP A COPY OF THE APPLICATION AND ALL ATTACHMENTS FOR YOUR RECORDS

MAIL THE COMPLETED APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Scholarship Committee
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Decatur Alumnae Chapter
P.O. Box 370673
Decatur, GA 30037-0673