

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE LAPTOP AWARD 2022



Greater Milwaukee
Urban League

Application Deadline:
Thursday, May 19, 2022 | 4:00 p.m.

Thank you for your interest in submitting an application for the Greater Milwaukee Urban League's 2022 Graduate Laptop Scholarship. We congratulate you on your decision to continue your education by attending college. Our goal is to invest financial resources to help support your education. After two difficult years with COVID, we are pleased this year to return to an in-person reception for our awardees. In addition to the laptops, we are awarding 10 - \$1,000 scholarships in partnership with the Kohler Co.!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration for this award, an applicant must:

1. Be a Milwaukee County college-bound high school senior or early graduating junior who will graduate in **May or June 2022**.
2. Show evidence [i.e., acceptance letter(s)] for plans for full-time enrollment in a two or four-year college program.
3. Be able to attend a "Red Carpet" acceptance event on Tuesday, June 14 at 6:00 pm and sign a media release form.
4. Meet the specific requirements of **ONE** of the following three categories:

- **Category 1 - Academic Excellence:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of **3.0 or higher**; show excellence in core curriculum subjects throughout your 3/4 years of high school. Applicants in this category will also be required to submit **two (2) letters of recommendation** that highlight and confirm intellectual curiosity and exemplary academic achievement, a **transcript**, and an **essay (minimum of 350 words - see Required Application Materials)**.
- **Category 2 - Community Service/Leadership:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher and demonstrate active participation in extra-curricular activities, especially community service activities and/or display leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience. Applicants in this category will also be required to submit **two (2) letters of recommendation** that highlight and confirm exemplary community service/leadership, a **transcript**, a **list** of involvement in community service/volunteer activity and/or leadership roles/positions and an **essay (minimum of 300 words - see Required Application Materials)**.

- **Category 3 - Character/Academic Turnaround:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of **2.0 or higher** and have faced adversity and/or overcome challenging life circumstances. The nominee must have turned his/her school performance around or must have maintained high academic standards in the face of adversity. Applicants in this category will be required to submit **(2) two** letters of recommendation from their school administration, guidance counselor, minister/clergy or a community organization (i.e., Boys and Girls Club, Boy or Girl Scouts, YWCA, etc.), a **transcript**, and an **essay (minimum of 300 words - see Application Requirements)**.

***Please note:** Priority will be given to students in each category who demonstrate financial need through eligibility for Free or Reduced Lunch. All students must complete one essay (Questions listed ahead in the application).*

AWARD TIMELINE

The following are the key dates to adhere to:

- * **Thursday, May 19:** Application deadline - **4:00 pm** (this is a firm deadline; no exceptions).
- * **Tuesday, June 7:** Award notification via email/USPS (**Make sure your email/phone number is current!**)
- * **Tuesday, June 14 - 6:00 pm:** Award presentation at TBD

***Please note:** All awardees must be in attendance to receive their awards. Failure to attend the designated appointment time will result in forfeiture of the award.*

SELECTION COMMITTEE AND PROCESS

The Greater Milwaukee Urban League has an outstanding group of community volunteers who sit on the Laptop Award Selection Committee which reviews **all** applications. The committee is comprised of local professionals including educators, businessmen and women, and individuals who are considered experts in their field. All members share a passion for the post-secondary success of youth in the community. Additionally, each committee member commits to equality and fairness in the review of applications and selecting finalists who best fit the Award criteria.

Each member of the Laptop Award Selection Committee will be assigned applications for reviewing and scoring. Applicants with the highest scores and percentage in each category will be awarded a laptop. **Decisions of the Award Committee are final.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA BY CATEGORY

Applicants for the senior laptop award will be evaluated in **one of the three (3)** designated categories mentioned above, and reviewed again as follows:

- 1. Category 1 - Academic Excellence:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on the quality of their high school transcript and grade point average in the specific areas of Mathematics, Science and English, and overall evidence of adequate preparation for college enrollment and future academic success, letters of recommendation, and essay.
- 2. Category 2 – Community Service/Leadership:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on the scope of his/her active participation in extra-curricular activities, especially community service activities (i.e., volunteer work at school, church and/or community-based organization(s) and/or evidence of an applicant's involvement in particular activities as listed on the Community Involvement Form that demonstrate a strong desire to positively impact others and contribute to society as a leader, recommendation letters and essay.
- 3. Category 3 – Character/Academic Turnaround:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on their "turnaround" as a student in terms of their character and/or academic performance and overall significant growth as a student as evidenced on their transcript, letters of recommendation and essay.

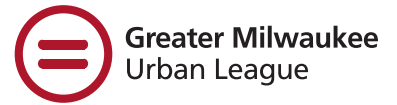


**Greater Milwaukee
Urban League**

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APPLICATION FORM



STUDENT INFORMATION *(Please type or print clearly.)*

First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Ethnicity/Race *(optional)*: _____ Gender *(optional)*: _____

Current High School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Intended 2 yr. or 4 yr. College(s) or University(ies): _____

Have you accepted enrollment to the above-named college(s) or university(ies)? _____

Intended Major or Field of Study: _____

Will you be the first one in your family to attend college? Yes No

Are you eligible to receive Free or Reduced lunch? Yes No

I attest that all statements and documents in **and** attached to this application are true and accurate. I understand that inaccurate and misrepresentation of any information, or the inability to show evidence of plans for full-time enrollment in a two- or four-year college program, will make me ineligible for the 2022 Laptop Award.

Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION *(Please type or print clearly.)*

First and Last Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

First and Last Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Best phone number to reach you: _____

APPLICANT RELEASE FORM

I certify that all information I have provided to the Greater Milwaukee Urban League is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. **I give permission for Greater Milwaukee Urban League staff and Laptop Award Selection Committee to contact my high school and/or college officials for additional academic information, and any other information related to this application, if necessary.** If selected to receive the Laptop Award, I give permission to share information contained in my application with appropriate award donors/sponsors, the Greater Milwaukee Urban League, and the National Urban League and its affiliates. I understand that I must be in attendance at the Greater Milwaukee Urban League's "Red Carpet" event scheduled for **Tuesday, June 14 – 6:00 pm at TBD.** **I understand that failure to attend this event will result in possible forfeiture of my award.**

Applicant Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note: All participants must show proof of COVID shot, or receive a rapid test prior to entry. Masks are optional.

** All award winners will be required to sign a Media Release Form.*

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST **Must Submit this form.**

ALL APPLICANTS – CATEGORIES 1, 2 & 3

- Application Form:** All areas of the application form must be completed, signed and dated by applicant and their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Check One Category:

- Category 1: Academics _____
- Category 2: Service/Leadership _____
- Category 3: Character/Academic Turnaround _____

- Essay:** Please select one of the following questions to answer in a minimum of:

350 words – Category 1

300 words – Category 2 & Category 3

- When you look at our global affairs, (i.e., Ukraine/Russia war, inflation, voting rights, etc.) how has digital access played a role in broadening the need for digital access for all?
- How did the "digital divide" affect your academic progress during the pre/post pandemic, and how did it affect your family as a whole?
- As you move forward in a collegiate setting, how will the ownership of a laptop impact your success as you advance your education and professional goals?
- In 2022, the digital divide is still prevalent across the city, state, and nation. What are two or three solutions to resolving the digital divide for the most vulnerable communities without access?

Applicant's essay **must state essay question** as the title/heading and be neatly typed in Arial or Times New Roman, 12 - point font, double-spaced, with applicant's name, contact information, high school, and word count in the top right corner of each page.

- Official Transcript:** All transcripts must include information on applicant's most recent available grade period. Please see individual categories for minimum grade point average requirements. **Only transcripts that are stamped or embossed with the high school's official seal will be accepted.**
- Recommendation Letters:** Two (2) signed letters of recommendation from a teacher or school staff person(s) or from community representatives (i.e., clergy, employer, youth group leader, etc.) who can attest to applicant's qualifications for the selected category (1, 2, or 3.) Letters written by family members or friends are not acceptable.

CATEGORY 2 – COMMUNITY SERVICE/LEADERSHIP

- In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants in Category 2 – Community Service/Leadership must complete the Service/Volunteer/Leadership form included in this packet.

To be eligible for consideration for the 2022 High School Graduate Laptop Award, applicants must complete and submit all required documents by 4:00PM, Thursday, May 19, 2022 Email as a Microsoft Word or PDF to: Events@tmul.org. OR mail to:
**GREATER MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE
ATTN: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
435 WEST NORTH AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53212**

For questions, email Events@tmul.org or call La' Amecia at 414.374.5341.

All materials submitted with this application become the property of the Greater Milwaukee Urban League and will not be returned to applicants.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY COMPLETION FORM

This form is to be used to record your community service or volunteer activity(ies). Please make as many copies of this form as needed and be sure to fill out one form for each organization/agency where you engaged in community service or volunteer activity(ies). It is preferred that information is neatly typed in Arial or Times New Roman, 12-point font. If information is handwritten, please ensure handwriting is legible.

Applicant Name: _____

Name of Organization/Agency: _____

Name of Supervisor/ Group Leader/Program Director or Coordinator: _____

Organization/Agency Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Organization/Agency Email: _____ Phone: _____

Brief Description of Community Service OR Volunteer Activity(ies) performed:

Number of Hours Served (within the last 6-12 months): _____

Signature of Supervisor/ Group Leader/Program Director or Coordinator: _____

EVALUATION CRITERIA BY CATEGORY

Applicants for the **Greater Milwaukee Urban League and Kohler Scholarships** will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Submission of the full application with the checklist. – **10%**
2. **Recommendation Letters:** Two (2) signed letters of recommendation from a teacher or school staff person(s) or from community representatives – **20%**
3. **Official Transcript (if available) in a Sealed Envelope (if mailed):** All transcripts must include information on applicant's most recent available grade period and reflect a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. – **20%**
4. **Essay question: Clarity, grammar, punctuation, organization, depth of content and compassion displayed in the essay question – will account for the bulk of the scoring. - 50%**
5. Category 2 Community Service/Ldrshp Verification Form- Additional - **5%**