**LEAAY Scholarship Guidelines and Criteria**

**1. Introduction:**

Clearly define the purpose of the scholarship program, its objectives, and its eligibility criteria. Specify that the scholarship program comprises both need-based and merit-based categories.

**2. Eligibility Criteria:**

*A. Need-Based Scholarships:*

Need-based scholarships will be awarded primarily based on demonstration of financial need. To qualify for need-based scholarships, students in college/university must be Pell Grant recipients or document another form of financial assistance as proof of their financial need. High school students are encouraged to describe their financial situation in their application, but this is optional.

While need-based scholarships aim to alleviate some of the financial burdens of higher-level education, LEAAY is, unfortunately, unable to support every student that demonstrates financial need. Thus, applicants will also be reviewed based on essay responses, letters of recommendation (if applicable), and other application material. Awardees will ultimately be chosen based on demonstrated financial need as well as how likely the applicant is to succeed in their educational journey, which will be decided by LEAAY’s Scholarship Committee.

*B. Merit-Based Scholarships:*

Merit-based scholarships will be reviewed based on the following factors:

* Academic Excellence: Outline the academic requirements applicants must meet, such as GPA, standardized test scores, or class ranking.
* Extracurricular Activities: Applicants will be reviewed based on participation in school clubs, community service, leadership roles, or other non-academic achievements.
* Essays: Essays will be reviewed based on the quality of writing and content. Essay responses give the Scholarship Committee a way to learn more about the applicant and determine their ability for success.

*C. Grants:*

Grants offered by LEAAY will be reviewed strictly on the proposed project outline, including how the project will impact the community, its reach, and its proposed budget. Awardees will be selected based on the quality of their project proposal and how closely it aligns with LEAAY’s mission of community service, leadership, and empowerment.

**3. Selection Committee:**

The Scholarship Committee will be comprised of members of LEAAY’s Board of Directors, as well as current college or high school faculty. LEAAY is committed to maintaining a diverse, unbias review committee to ensure a fair review of all applicants. Final scholarship awardees will be decided by a majority vote of the Scholarship Committee.

**4. Award Notification:**

Scholarship recipients will be notified within one week of the application deadline.

**5. Appeals and Disputes:**

For appeals and disputes to the scholarship decisions, applicants may contact LEAAY (leaay.info@gmail.com). All appeals and disputes will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, which will discuss the best course of action to resolve these issues.

**6. Publicity and Promotion:**

Scholarship recipients will be asked if their information may be used for publicity and promotional purposes. Recipients may be asked to provide additional information after receiving their award.

**7. Review and Revision:**

Scholarship guidelines will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure continued relevance and fairness.