

THE MARCEL A. BEDARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR SERVICE - 2023

Sponsored by the MONTCLAIR LIONS CLUB of VIRGINIA

Eligibility: To qualify for this scholarship, students must live in the 22025/22026 zip code or be a member of the Montclair Leo Club, sponsored by the Montclair Lions, while attending a Prince William County High School (Public, Private or Home School).

Introduction: The Montclair Lions award one scholarship each year to a graduating senior preparing to pursue higher education who has demonstrated leadership and superior commitment and support to serving others in the local community, while still pursuing academic achievement in school. The exact Scholarship amount varies based on funds raised during the year awarded but generally averages \$600 or more per scholarship. **Electronic (Digital) Applications and supporting documentation are due by 1 May, 2023. Applications must be reviewed and signed by guidance counselors prior to submit.**

Selection Criteria: This scholarship will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Completeness of application (5pts)
- Details of community service, an estimate of volunteer hours provided and any leadership roles while maintaining academic excellence. (10pts)
- Demonstrated academic excellence is defined as a high school cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4 point scale. (10pts)
- Demonstrated understanding of 1) why community service is important, 2) who it benefits and 3) how it has affected or enriched the student as detailed in a student prepared essay of not more than 400 words. (60pts)
- Validation of services provided as documented by at least two recommendation letters from adults involved in the service project or event supported. (10pts)
- An indication of likely success in post-secondary education as verified by at least one letter of acceptance to a two or four year college. (5pts)

History and Background: This scholarship is named after Marcel A. Bedard, a well-respected Lion and a founding member of the Montclair Lions Club who passed in 2012. It also commemorates the service of other Lions, past and present, who have volunteered their service and support to our local community.

Like most Lions, one of Marcel's greatest joys in life was serving the community he lived in for more than 49 years. During this time, Marcel was a member of the Dale City Lions and then the Montclair Lions. He was also a member of the Moose Lodge in Dale City, VA, the Elks Lodge in Woodbridge, VA, an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Deputy State Coordinator and Chief Training Officer, and a Boy Scout representative. Marcel received many awards and certificates over the years for his community services as well as receiving Citizen of the Year for Prince William County in 2005.

We Serve

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As a Lion, Marcel served in many capacities of leadership to include secretary, president, zone chairman, and various positions on the District Governor's Cabinet. As Montclair's Lion's Sight and Hearing program leader he was directly responsible for thousands of area children receiving sight and hearing screening as well as eyeglasses. It is this life of service to others, which should serve as an inspiration to those seeking this award.

The Application Process: Students must Email an "Intent to Apply" by April 1, 2023 containing a statement of intent, such as: "I intend to apply for the Montclair Lions Club Service Scholarship". This Email shall provide their name, the name of their school, and contact information for themselves and their school counselor. Please Email intent to: **montclairlion246@gmail.com**

Students must then compile and Email all application materials to the above address by May 1, 2023. Applications may be provided as attachments in either MS Word, PDF Format or a combination.

Application must be reviewed by Parents and the student's individual Guidance Counselors in advance to meet the deadline for submission.

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered.

At the close of the application period, all complete applications will be evaluated by the Montclair Lions Club Scholarship Committee and ranked according to the Selection Criteria. The top applicants may then be interviewed by the Committee if necessary. The winner will be notified by the awards committee once the selection process has been completed.

Instructions:

- 1) The student must submit their complete application via Email by May 1, 2023, to **montclairlion246@gmail.com** documenting their name, address, school attended (or statement of being home schooled).
- 2) The application must include a detailed list of organizations served in the community (public, private, religious etc.) and an estimate of volunteer hours provided to each organization served. The list shall include a knowledgeable Point of Contact for each organization listed.
- 3) The student must demonstrate an above average academic record by providing a copy of their high school transcripts showing a high school cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4 point scale.

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- 4) The student must compose and electronically submit an essay of not more than 400 words discussing some aspect of their community service experience.
- 5) The student must provide copies of at least two letters of recommendation
- 6) The student must demonstrate a high likelihood of success in post-secondary education as verified by at least one letter of acceptance to a two or four year college.

Instruction to Parents and Guidance Counselor:

Please review the student's information requested above for all requested documents and ensure a copy of the student's academic transcripts, including SAT scores if applicable are provided.

Who are the Montclair Lions:

The Montclair Lions are a 501(c)3 charitable organization focused on providing service and support to our local community. The Montclair Lions raise and donate funds to local charities and volunteer our time to help a variety of charitable organizations including Habitat for Humanity, ACTS, Dumfries-Triangle Volunteer Fire Department, Hilda Barg Homeless Shelter, and Virginia Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinics. We host a semi-annual Drug-Take-Back Day, and participate annually in the Quantico Christmas Wreath laying. We are also a major supporter of sight and hearing screenings at local Prince William County schools, and we collect and recycle used glasses for distribution overseas.

In addition, we sponsor and provide financial support to the Virginia Diabetes Youth Camps, Vision Walk, the Leader Dog Program, Old Dominion Eye Foundation, Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) Sight First Program, Northern Virginia Sight & Hearing Van, Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Lions Hearing Aid Bank Foundation, Special Olympics, Youth for Tomorrow, DTQ Little League.

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Basic Application Requirements:

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ . State _____ Zip: _____
Telephone No. _____
Email Address: _____
Senior High School being attended: _____
GPA and SAT Scores (if taken): _____
College where student has been accepted: _____
Email Address for School Counselor: _____

Signatures of Applicant and Parent/Guidance Counselor attesting all information provided is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge.

In addition to the above, each application shall include the following attachments:

- A list of community service activities performed/supported. Please describe the activities, approximate time spent, and services provided. Include name and telephone number of a contact person for each activity,
- An original essay that discussing some aspect of their community service experience and explains why providing community service at the high school level is important, who it benefits, and how it has affected or enriched their life or those around them. Essays shall not be more than 400 words.
- A copy of High School transcripts documenting academic standing,
- A minimum of two letters of recommendation preferably from:
 - an individual involved in some aspect of their community service (e.g., faculty/advisor of a school club, community organization or church group).
 - Alternatively, a letter of recommendation could be from someone who benefited from the student's involvement.
- A copy of an acceptance letter to either a 2 or 4 year accredited higher educational program.

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