



Thursdays Network
Greater Washington Urban League

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

“I EMPOWER” Scholarship Fund Application and Instructions 2014



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INTRODUCTION

Thursdays Network is the young professionals' auxiliary of the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL), and the Washington, DC metro area chapter of the National Urban League Young Professionals. The mission of Thursdays Network is to provide a forum for young adults, ages 21-40, to focus their energies on community service, civic engagement and fostering professional development. Through the leadership of the Community Service Committee, Thursdays Network has developed several outreach efforts that benefit children and youth, the elderly, and the environment. The capstone of our year is a month of volunteerism called Young Blacks Give Back.

As part of its commitment to the Greater Washington community, Thursdays Network developed a scholarship program to help high school students pursue a college education. Since 1992, the Thursdays Network I EMPOWER Scholarship Fund has awarded close to \$150,000 in college assistance to high school seniors in Washington, DC, Montgomery County, MD, and Prince Georges County, MD. Students use the award to fund their freshman year at any accredited 4-year college or university in the United States.

For the 2013-2014 school year, Thursdays Network will award a \$2,000 scholarship to a deserving high school student. All scholarship disbursements are to be used for tuition and will be delivered directly to the bursars/accounts office of the student's school for the fall or spring term of their freshman year.

Thursdays Network is currently seeking applicants for the 2014 I EMPOWER Scholarship.

**APPLICATIONS THAT ARE NOT COMPLETED AND POSTMARKED BY January 31, 2014
WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible to receive a Thursday Network I EMPOWER Scholarship, one must:

- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 based on a 4.0 scale;
- Plan to attend a four-year college or university in the fall of 2014;
- Demonstrate a commitment to community service;
- Demonstrate a financial need;
- Be a permanent resident and/or attend high school in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County (MD), or Prince Georges County (MD); and
- **Complete and supply 3 copies of all application materials postmarked no later than January 31, 2014**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Your application will not be considered complete unless it includes **three (3) copies of each** of the following documents and is **postmarked by January 31, 2014.**

- Application (pages 5 – 8)
- Application Essays (page 9)
- Proof of Financial Need to include parent/guardian's Federal Income Tax returns; list of all scholarships awarded thus far AND either a Student Aid Report (SAR) or a completed FAFSA form/College Financial Aid Application (page 8)
- Two Letters of Recommendation (page 8)
- Official High School Transcript
- Official Copy of SAT or ACT scores (if not provided on transcript)
**Test results must be on official letterhead; electronic copy from testing site is acceptable*

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In order to be considered complete, your application must include three (3) copies of all supporting documents. All required materials must be submitted in one packet / mailing. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Complete all sections of the application as instructed. You are responsible for making sure all application materials are postmarked no later than **January 31, 2014**.

While you may type or hand-write your responses on the application form, **please type your response to the essay question on a separate sheet.**

Please make sure your responses are legible.

Be sure to write your last name at the bottom of **each** page of the application.

Do not staple any portion of your application or additional sheets.

Please submit all materials to:

Thursdays Network - I EMPOWER Scholarship
ATTN: Samantha Davis
PO Box 12023
Washington, D.C. 20005

Due to the large number of applicants, we will not be able to consider applications that are postmarked after **January 31, 2014**. There will be **no exceptions** made. If you wish to contact us about the application process, you may do so by sending an e-mail to scholarship@thursdaysnetwork.org.

Every completed application we receive is thoroughly evaluated by at least three members of the Scholarship Review Committee. Given the number of applications we receive each year, and our commitment to giving each application our utmost consideration, we ask that you be patient. You will be notified of your award status by **March 3, 2014**. The Scholarship Recipient will be expected to attend the Annual GWUL Gala on **March 19, 2014** to be recognized for their accomplishments.

Thank you for applying to the Thursdays Network I EMPOWER Scholarship.

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**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
2014**

Section I : BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
 Last First Middle

Date of Birth: ___ ___ / ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ **Sex:** **Male** | **Female**

Race / Ethnicity: _____

Permanent Address:

Street Apt. City / Town State ZIP

Current Address: *(Only if different from above)*

Street Apt. City / Town State ZIP

Permanent Telephone Number: ___ | ___ | ___ | - ___ | ___ | ___ | - ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

Email Address: _____

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TN USE ONLY

Applicant's Last Name

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Section II : EDUCATION

Name of High School: _____

Cumulative High School GPA:

Please use a 4.0 scale

	.		
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Standardized Test Scores *(please provide supporting documentation)*:

SAT	ACT
Mathematics: <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	English <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
Critical Reading: <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Mathematics <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
Writing <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Reading <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
	Science <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
TOTAL <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	COMPOSITE <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>

Please list the colleges/universities to which you have applied.

Name	Location (City, State)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Attach additional sheets if needed.

Applicant's Last Name

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Section III : AWARDS, HONORS, & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please list any academic honors, awards, and extracurricular activities from the past 3 years.

Name of Honor/Awards/Activity	Short Description	Year(s)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Attach additional sheets if needed.

Section IV : WORK EXPERIENCE

Please list any work (including after-school/summer jobs, volunteer positions, internships) that you have done over the past 3 years. If you chose to provide a resume, make sure it provides the hours you spent working.

Title	Employer Name	Dates of Employment	Approx. Hours per Week
1.			
2.			
3.			

Attach additional sheets if needed.

Applicant's Last Name

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Section V : Community Service

Please list at least three community service projects or programs that you have done over the past 3 years.

Total # of Community Service Hours: _____

Name of Community Service Activity/Program	Short Description	Hours of Service
1.		
2.		
3.		

Attach additional sheets if needed.

Section VI : FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please provide the following documents. All information received will be kept confidential and will be used only for the purpose of assessing your financial need.

- a.) Parent/guardian’s most recent Federal Income Tax returns **(REQUIRED)**
- b.) List of all private grants/scholarships awarded thus far;
- AND**
- c.) Your most recent Student Aid Report (SAR)
- OR**
- d.) Completed FAFSA or Financial Aid Application from a college/university to which you are applying.

You may attach a written statement describing any major changes in your family’s financial situation.

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Section V : Community Service

Section VII : LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please provide **two letters of recommendation**. One of those letters must come from a faculty member and one from anyone who has had oversight or a supervisory role in your community service activities. Parents/guardians may not submit a letter on their child's behalf.

In the spaces below, please indicate from whom we may expect to receive letters of recommendation.

Name	Affiliation/Organization
1. (faculty)	
2. (comm. svc.)	

Applicant's Last Name

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Section VIII: ESSAY

The National Urban League (NUL) has a history of providing direct services to communities in need. In honor of this commitment Thursday Network's 2014 I EMPOWER Scholarship Recipient must describe how he/she would assist a community in need and how he/she has served his/her community by writing two essays addressing the following two questions:

Essay #1

The National Urban League focuses our efforts on creating equality in the areas of Jobs, Housing, Health and Education. Choose one of these areas and discuss why it is important to the fight for equality for all Americans, specifically the African American community.

Essay #2

Explain what you have done to make your community a better place to live. Give examples of specific projects in which you have been involved over time.

Each essay response should be no longer than 500 words, which should be double spaced and typed in 12-point font. Font type should be Times New Roman and Normal margins (1 inch top/bottom and left/right). Your essay will be evaluated for clarity of expression, use of proper grammar, and punctuation, and the extent to which you address each of the items in the questions above.

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