



**Greater Washington  
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*



**GREATER WASHINGTON  
URBAN LEAGUE**

**2025 High School  
Application  
&  
Instructions**

[www.gwul.org/gwulscholarships](http://www.gwul.org/gwulscholarships)

## INTRODUCTION

The Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL or the League) is on a mission to increase the economic and political empowerment of historically vulnerable and diverse populations. For 85 years, the League has stood on society's frontlines as well as in the trenches serving as a safety net and facilitator of opportunity in Washington, DC and Montgomery County and Prince George's County, Maryland. As one of the District's oldest civil rights organizations, the League continues to carve a distinctive path towards justice and fair play by putting families first and catering to the needs of children and the elderly, and everyone in between. Since 1938, GWUL has guided individuals on the road to self-sufficiency, impacting over three million lives.

As an important and long-standing manifestation of its mission, the Greater Washington Urban League and its young professionals' auxiliary, Thursday Network (TN) are committed to awarding educational opportunities through scholarships for college-bound and currently enrolled college students. In conjunction with numerous corporate sponsors, GWUL has facilitated the distribution of more than \$2 million in scholarships to more than 336 young adults to financially support their freshman through senior years at any accredited four-year college or university in the United States. Scholarship recipients have matriculated to a diverse and elite range of higher education institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, local colleges, Ivy League, and other colleges/universities, as well as the Job Corps and other special post-secondary education and trade establishments.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Greater Washington Urban League will award several scholarships to deserving high school seniors and current undergraduate students, ranging from \$1,000 to \$8,000. **All scholarship disbursements are for tuition and will be delivered directly to the bursar's or student accounts office of the student's school for the Fall 2025 term.**

## ABOUT GWUL'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' AUXILIARY, THURSDAY NETWORK:

Thursday Network is the young professionals' auxiliary of the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) and supports community service and civic engagement efforts in the Washington Metropolitan area. Thursday Network's vision is to be a catalyst for change in the Greater Washington community by serving as a training ground for our members to improve community and self. For the 2024-2025 term, Thursday Network's pillars reflect the most urgent needs of the community. The pillars are **Leadership development, Political Advocacy, Economic Security, Social Determinants of Health, and Youth Empowerment**. Through the leadership of the Community Service Committee, Thursday Network has developed several outreach efforts that benefit children, youth, the elderly, and the environment.

## 2025 GWUL SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

### Monumental Sports



### Thursday Network



### Charlotte Elizabeth Yancey Eights Trust

## *Charlotte Elizabeth Yancey Eights*

# 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**China Jones-Burgess**

Yancey Eights Scholarship (\$8,000)

**Daniel Omekam**

Thursday Network "I EMPOWER"  
Scholarship (\$1,000)

**Kayla Bethea**

Monumental Sports Scholarship  
(\$4,000)

**Harvis Macon II**

Thursday Network "I EMPOWER"  
Scholarship (\$2,000)

**Meagan Vanzie**

Monumental Sports Scholarship  
(\$8,000)

**Ryan Travers**

Thursday Network "I EMPOWER"  
Scholarship (\$2,000)

**Nia Andersen**

Monumental Sports Scholarship  
(\$4,000)

**Amari Childs**

Thursday Network "I EMPOWER"  
Scholarship (\$1,000)

**Madison Doster**

Thursday Network "I EMPOWER"  
Scholarship (\$2,000)

**B. Nartey**

Thursday Network "I EMPOWER"  
Scholarship (\$1,000)

**Donya Conley**

Thursday Network "I EMPOWER"  
Scholarship (\$1,000)

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible to receive a Greater Washington Urban League 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 2025
- Demonstrate a commitment to community service;
- Demonstrate financial need
- **Adjusted gross family income** must follow provided guidelines;
- Be Black/African American, African, Afro-Caribbean, and/or Afro-Latino;
- Be a **permanent resident and/or attend high school** in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County (MD), or Prince George's County (MD); and
- Complete and submit all application materials online **no later than February 20, 2025.**

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Your application will not be considered complete unless it includes **each** of the following documents and is **submitted by February 20, 2025.**

- Application
- Proof of Financial Need via a full copy of Student Aid Report (SAR) or first two pages of Federal Tax Return
- Written Essay Response
- Video Essay Response
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Official High School Transcript

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Thursday Network will host two information sessions designed to walk through the application and answer questions. More details on how to join these events will be available on the GWUL and Thursday Network websites.

- **In-Person Session:** Saturday, January 18, 2025 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST during [Thursday Network's MLK Day of Service](#). - Maya Angelou Public Charter School (5600 East Capitol St NE)
- **Virtual Session:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 7:00-8:30 PM EST via Zoom

## SUBMISSION RESOURCES

- FAFSA Application- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
- Scholarship Essay Writing- <https://www.owens.edu/writing/scholarship.html>

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To submit to the online portal, the application and all required documents must be submitted **at one time. Do not submit your application online until you have all materials ready to upload. Incomplete applications do not save online and will not be accepted.**

All documents except the essays should be submitted as PDF files; your written essay should be submitted as a Word document. The video essay should be submitted as an MP4 file. Visit the GWUL scholarship website for best practices for filming your video submission. The official college transcript and faculty recommendation letter must be submitted on the school's letterhead; the community service recommendation letter must be submitted on the organization's letterhead.

Complete all sections of the online application as instructed within the fillable boxes. **It is recommended to download the application to your computer to review all sections before completing the online application.** You are responsible for making sure all application materials are submitted no later than **February 20, 2025.**

Submit all completed application materials online at: [www.gwul.org/gwulscholarships](http://www.gwul.org/gwulscholarships)

Due to the large number of applicants, we will not accept applications after **February 20, 2025**, no exceptions. Questions about the application process may be sent to [scholarship@thursdaynetwork.org](mailto:scholarship@thursdaynetwork.org).



## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER REQUIREMENTS

2025 scholarship recipients will be notified by **February 28, 2025**. All scholarship recipients are expected to:

- Attend the 2025 award recipient in person video filming at the GWUL headquarters in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of DC. (Confirmed Date TBD but will occur in early- mid March)
- Attend the Greater Washington Urban League's [Whitney M. Young Gala](#) on March 28, 2025. (Complementary registration will be provided)
- Write a thank you letter to their scholarship funder and;
- Participate in a financial education course offered by the Greater Washington Urban League and Thursday Network

**Thank you for applying to the 2025 Greater Washington Urban League Scholarship!**

**Disclaimer:** The Greater Washington Urban League and Thursday Network may use my likeness in a video, along with my first name, in any and all of its advertisements and other publications, including website entries, without payment or any other consideration. Once videos are submitted with the scholarship application, they will become the property of the Greater Washington Urban League and Thursday Network and will not be returned.

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## SECTION I: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Date of Birth: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Race/Ethnicity (select all that apply): \_\_\_ African American \_\_\_ African \_\_\_ Afro-Caribbean \_\_\_ Afro-Latino

Permanent Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Permanent Telephone Number: \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## SECTION II: EDUCATION

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA (*Please use a 4.0 scale*):  .

### COMPOSITE:

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


Applicant's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## SECTION III: AWARDS, HONORS, & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List all academic honors, awards, and extracurricular activities from the past 3 years.

Name of Honor/Award/Activity	Short Description	Year(s) of Honor/Award/Activity

## SECTION IV: WORK EXPERIENCE

List all work (including after-school/summer jobs, volunteer positions, internships) from the past 3 years.

Title	Employer Name	Dates of Employment	Approx. Hours per Week

Applicant's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## SECTION V: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Total number of community service hours over the past 3 years: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of community service hours required for graduation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

List at least four community service projects or programs from the past 3 years.

Name of Community Service Activity/Program	Short Description	Hours of Service

## SECTION VI: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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, or other family members **may not** submit a letter on your behalf. In the spaces below, please indicate your recommenders.

Recommender Name	Affiliation/Organization
Faculty:	
Community Service:	

Applicant's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## SECTION VII: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

You may submit a typed statement describing any major changes in your family's financial situation. This is optional and **does not replace** submitting one of the financial documents outlined below.

A.) List all grants/scholarships obtained so far for the 2025-2026 school year

Grant/Scholarship Name	Award Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$

B.) Your most recent Student Aid Report (SAR) or 2023 or 2024 Federal Tax Return\*

**\*Black out any sensitive information, such as social security number (please refer to the attached samples).**

**\*For the SAR:** include the **entire** SAR, not just the first page with the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Question 85. "Parent's Adjusted Gross Income" must have a numerical value; if it is blank or says "Transferred from the IRS," you **cannot** submit the SAR and must submit the Federal Tax Return.

**\*For Federal Tax Return:** include **only pages one and two** of Federal Tax Return Form 1040.

Maximum Adjusted Gross Income	
Household Size	
1	\$74,400
2	\$85,000
3	\$95,650
4	\$106,250
5	\$112,900
6	\$119,550
7	\$126,150
8	\$132,800

Applicant's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sample Federal Tax Return

**Form 1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99) **2018** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return OMB No. 1545-0074 IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

Filing status:  Single  Married filing jointly  Married filing separately  Head of household  Qualifying widow(er)

Your first name and initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your social security number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your standard deduction:  Someone can claim you as a dependent  You were born before January 2, 1954  You are blind

If joint return, spouse's first name and initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's social security number: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse standard deduction:  Someone can claim your spouse as a dependent  Spouse was born before January 2, 1954  Spouse is blind  Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were dual-status alien  Full-year health care coverage or exempt (see inst.)

Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions. \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. no. \_\_\_\_\_ Presidential Election Campaign (see inst.)  You  Spouse

City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, attach Schedule 6. \_\_\_\_\_ If more than four dependents, see inst. and ✓ here

Dependents (see instructions):		(2) Social security number	(3) Relationship to you	(4) ✓ if qualifies for (see inst.):	
(1) First name	Last name			Child tax credit	Credit for other dependents
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Sign Here** Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Your occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.)

Spouse's signature. If a joint return, both must sign. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.)

**Paid Preparer Use Only**

Preparer's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preparer's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ PTIN: \_\_\_\_\_ Firm's EIN: \_\_\_\_\_ Check if:  3rd Party Designee  Self-employed

Firm's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm's address: \_\_\_\_\_

For Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. Cat. No. 11320B Form **1040** (2018)

Form 1040 (2018) Page **2**

1	Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2 . . . . .	1	
2a	Tax-exempt interest . . . . .	2a	
3a	Qualified dividends . . . . .	3a	
4a	IRAs, pensions, and annuities . . . . .	4a	
5a	Social security benefits . . . . .	5a	
6	Total income. Add lines 1 through 5. Add any amount from Schedule 1, line 22 . . . . .	6	
7	Adjusted gross income. If you have no adjustments to income, enter the amount from line 6; otherwise, subtract Schedule 1, line 36, from line 6 . . . . .	7	
8	Standard deduction or itemized deductions (from Schedule A) . . . . .	8	
9	Qualified business income deduction (see instructions) . . . . .	9	
10	Taxable income. Subtract lines 8 and 9 from line 7. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . .	10	
11	a Tax (see inst.) _____ (check if any from: 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Form(s) 8814 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Form 4972 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ) b Add any amount from Schedule 2 and check here <input type="checkbox"/>	11	
12	a Child tax credit/credit for other dependents _____ b Add any amount from Schedule 3 and check here <input type="checkbox"/>	12	
13	Subtract line 12 from line 11. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . .	13	
14	Other taxes. Attach Schedule 4 . . . . .	14	
15	Total tax. Add lines 13 and 14 . . . . .	15	
16	Federal income tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099 . . . . .	16	
17	Refundable credits: a EIC (see inst.) _____ b Sch. 8812 _____ c Form 8863 _____ Add any amount from Schedule 5 . . . . .	17	
18	Add lines 16 and 17. These are your total payments . . . . .	18	
19	If line 18 is more than line 15, subtract line 15 from line 18. This is the amount you overpaid . . . . .	19	
20a	Amount of line 19 you want refunded to you. If Form 8888 is attached, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	20a	
21	Amount of line 19 you want applied to your 2019 estimated tax . . . . .	21	
22	Amount you owe. Subtract line 18 from line 15. For details on how to pay, see instructions . . . . .	22	
23	Estimated tax penalty (see instructions) . . . . .	23	

Go to [www.irs.gov/Form1040](http://www.irs.gov/Form1040) for instructions and the latest information. Form **1040** (2018)

# Sample Student Aid Report (include the full report)

## Processed Information

Federal Student Aid **FAFSA**<sup>SM</sup>

Form Approved  
OMB No. 1845-0001  
App. Exp. 12/31/2012

### 2012-2013 Electronic Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your 2012-2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Receipt Date:	01/11/2012	JO 01
Processed Date:	01/11/2012	EFC: 7256
		DRN: 4557

### Comments About Your Information

Based on the information we have on record for you, your EFC is 7256. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your school will use your EFC to determine your financial aid eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work study, and possible funding from your state and school.

**WHAT YOU MUST DO NOW** (Use the checklist below to make sure that all of your issues are resolved.)

If you have now completed your 2011 tax return, you should correct your information to reflect the income and tax information reported on your tax return. Click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page to make the correction. You may be able to retrieve your tax return information directly from the IRS. If you have not yet completed your tax return, you must correct this SAR to reflect the income and tax information reported on your tax return once it is filed.

If you need to make corrections to your information, click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page. You must use your Federal Student Aid PIN to access your record online. If you need additional help with your SAR, contact your school's financial aid office or the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, you can make the correction online or call 1-800-4-FED-AID and ask a customer service representative to make the change for you.

### FAFSA Data

Assumed fields, based on the data you entered, are marked with an "\*" (asterisk) sign.

1. Student's Last Name:	JOHNSON
2. Student's First Name:	ANNA
3. Student's Middle Initial:	M
4. Student's Permanent Mailing Address:	123 HOMETOWN STREET
5. Student's Permanent City:	ANYTOWN
6. Student's Permanent State:	MA
7. Student's Permanent ZIP Code:	02115
8. Student's Social Security Number:	██████████
9. Student's Date of Birth:	03/04/1994

# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## SECTION VIII: WRITTEN AND VIDEO ESSAY

The National Urban League (NUL) has a history of providing direct services to communities in need. In honor of this commitment, the Greater Washington Urban League Scholarship Applicant must describe how he/she would assist a community in need and how he/she has served his/her community by submitting one written essay **AND** one video essay addressing one of the following questions:

### **Essay #1 (Written Essay)**

*Education is often described as the foundation for social and economic mobility, yet many communities face inequalities in access to quality education. Reflect on a specific challenge related to education in your community or in a community you care about. Describe the impact of this issue, propose potential solutions, and discuss how you would contribute to creating change.*

OR

### **Essay #2 (Written Essay)**

*In recent years, issues such as economic inequality, racial justice, access to quality education, and public health disparities have come to the forefront of national conversations. Choose a current event or challenge impacting underserved communities and share your perspective on how individuals and organizations, like the Urban League, can work to address this issue.*

### **Written Essay Instructions:**

- The essay response should be submitted as a Word document, saved as a **2025 GWUL Scholarship Application Essay - Your Initials**. For an example, if your name is John Doe you would save your essay as the **2025 GWUL Scholarship Application Essay - JD**.
- No longer than 500 words.
- Font should be 12 point, Times New Roman
- Double spaced with normal margins (1-inch top/bottom and left/right).
- **\*Do not write your name or any personal identifier within your essay documents.\***

Your written 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.

The Greater Washington Urban League and Thursday Network define plagiarism as “a direct violation of intellectual and academic honesty.” Although it exists in many forms, all plagiarism refers to the same act: representing somebody else’s words or ideas as one’s own. This can take the form of taking material from other sources, including the Internet, and deliberately failing to give credit in your essay to the original source. Therefore, it is very important that you properly document sources in your essay responses with verifiable citations. You may include citations in the footnotes of the Word document or on a separate “References” page. **Citations do not count towards the 500-word limit.** Additionally, the use of AI tools or assistance is strictly prohibited.

## **Essay #1 (Video Essay)**

*The National Urban League empowers individuals to be catalysts for change. Please share a personal story or experience that demonstrates your commitment to serving your community. Highlight the impact you made and how this experience connects to your goals for the future.*

*\*\*You may also use this opportunity to bring attention to any information not disclosed elsewhere that you feel will add to our understanding of your application.*

### **Video Essay Instructions:**

- Video essays are expected to be your original work
- Recommended length of video is maximum of 120 seconds
- Upon request, winning submissions must be accompanied by a Microsoft Word document to accommodate closed captioning
- Applicants should upload their video to a shareable drive (e.g., Google Drive) and provide the corresponding video link when prompted in the application. Videos do not need to be viewable to the public, only sharable for the review process. Video should be saved in an MP4 file format
- Video resolution should be 1920x1080 (1080 HD at 60 fps or higher)
- Videos should have good audio sound quality
- We strongly encourage you to record your video using a smartphone or high-quality digital camera
- For video filming best practices visit [www.gwul.org/scholarships](http://www.gwul.org/scholarships) and view our “Video Filming Guide”
- We suggest practicing your answers before recording

### **Guidelines for video essay eligibility:**

- Professional (paid) assistance at any stage of the process is prohibited; using professional assistance is grounds for disqualification of your application
- Video essays should only contain your original work
- Videos may not contain material that infringes another’s copyright or licensing rights or otherwise infringes another’s rights, including but not limited to privacy, publicity, or other intellectual property rights
- Videos essays should only include the applicant

### **Video essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

- Providing an answer(s) to the prompt
- Clarity of message or theme
- Originality of work
- *Creativity is encouraged but not necessary*
- Applicants can provide their responses in the forms of spoken word, lyrics, monologue, and/or a voiceover. If an applicant chooses to do a voice over it **must** be of an original piece said from their own voice.

<b>Section Scores for Applicant</b>	
<b>Section</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Community Service</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Financial Need</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total Essay Score</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total Video Essay Score</b>	<b>30</b>

**Total Possible Application Score: 100**