



RWIFO

ROCHESTER WEST INDIAN FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

PO BOX, 64551 | ROCHESTER NY 14624 | 585-234-0909 | rwifo@rwifo.org

2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Rochester West Indian Festival Organization, Inc. was founded in 1984 to preserve cultural heritage among Caribbean people and their descendants and to share this culture with the Greater Rochester community. RWIFO, Inc. is dedicated to our youth's educational success and building a strong Caribbean Community, Culturally, Socially, and Financially. The Organization will share its success by offering scholarships to deserving minority graduating high school seniors of the Greater Rochester area.

Seven financial awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 will be awarded to graduating seniors to go towards their college education at an accredited college. Six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded based on academic merit.

One \$1,500 scholarship, the **Mary Thompson Community Service Award**, will be awarded to a student who has performed outstanding community service in memory of Mary Thompson, founding member and first RWIFO president.

Scholarship Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- Applicant must be a resident of Monroe County.
- Applicant **must be of West Indian descent/origin**. One or both parents or grandparents must be Caribbean with family roots from: *Aruba, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, Curacao, Bonaire, Dominica, Turks and Caicos, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Martinique, Saint Lucia, US Virgin Islands,*
- Applicant must be a graduating high school senior.
- Applicant must demonstrate high academic achievement with a grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better.
- Applicant must be committed to entering a college or university in the **Fall of 2025**. To qualify for the scholarship, the student must apply and start college in the fall of 2025.
- Applicant must submit **TWO letters** of recommendation:
 - One from a high school counselor or current teacher.
 - One from a community leader, a former teacher, supervisor, or mentor, etc.
- Applicant must submit an official transcript from high school, which includes:
 - Senior grades to date
 - Grade point average

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their academic performance, community involvement, extracurricular activities, and essay responses.



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PERSONAL STATEMENT/BIOGRAPHY

Please include a short essay (minimum 500 words, double spaced) detailing your background, leadership and dedication to community action, career and educational goals as well as your plans for reaching those goals, and other pertinent information that supports your qualification for this scholarship.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- Complete applications must be received by **Friday, May 2, 2025**, by **5:00 pm** via email at scholarship@rwifo.org or postmarked to Rochester West Indian Festival Organization, Inc., P.O. Box 64551, Rochester NY, 14624.
- Any submission that includes an incomplete application or insufficient documentation will be eliminated from consideration if all the required documents are not received by the stated submission deadline.

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS

Award decisions will be announced in May 2025. Scholarship awardees will be notified by email during the month of May. Scholarship funds will be awarded and distributed following verification of college enrollment in the month of August.

Please note: Award will be forfeited if verification of enrollment is not received by **September 30, 2025**.



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PERSONAL INFORMATION

(*Indicates Required Information)

*Name: *Date of Birth:

*Email: *Parent/Guardian(s):

*Address

*City: *Zip Code: Race:

* Home Phone: Cellphone:

Number of persons in your family (including you): Gender: Male Female

Were you, your parents, or grandparents born in the West Indies? Yes No

If yes, who? Country

*High School: *Graduation Date:

*GPA: / SAT: ACT:

Honors & Awards:

School Activities:

Community Activities:

Art/Music/Theater Activities/ Performances:

RWIFO Activities:

If you are employed, Employer's Name::

Position:

Brief Job Description:

*List sources of financial aid (include scholarships and/or grants) received thus far:



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*Name List the school(s) to which you have applied.	Location	Projected Yearly Tuition	Accepted
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
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			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

*Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are necessary in order to evaluate your application. One must come from a counselor or current teacher who can evaluate your overall academic performance. The other should come from a community leader, former teacher, minister, employer, or mentor

Please list the individuals to whom you plan to request your letters of recommendation:

1. Name: Title:

Address: Phone Number

2. Name: Title:

Address: Phone Number



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***BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Please provide an essay of your background and personal history including the following information: education/career goals and objectives, community activities, and any other pertinent information necessary to access your qualification for this scholarship. This essay should be approximately 500 words.