

**Here are some general points to help YOU put your best foot forward when applying to the ACLU's Youth Activist Scholarship.**

**\*\*Applications are due to the NYCLU office on Monday, November 16, 2009\*\***

**TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:**

- Have demonstrated a strong commitment to civil liberties through some form of activism
- Be a high school senior planning on entering an accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking student
- Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of graduation
- Not be a current ACLU plaintiff or witness in a legal case

**JUDGING:**

- Applicants will be judged on the following standards (in order of importance):
  - The strength and depth of your contributions to civil liberties
  - Your demonstrated leadership
  - The likelihood of your continuing commitment to civil liberties in the future
  - Your commitment to academic excellence
  - Your demonstrated financial need
- Winners will be announced in February 2010

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- The application form includes:
  - 1,000-word personal statement about your civil liberties activism.
  - A recommendation form to be completed by an adult leader in your school or community that attests to your commitment as an activist and civil libertarian (This reference cannot be a family member).
  - You will be required to submit your most up-to-date high school transcript to demonstrate that you meet the GPA requirement.
- Applications are due to the NYCLU office on Monday, November 16, 2009.

**ESSAYS COULD ADDRESS QUESTIONS SUCH AS:**

- What does being a civil liberties activist mean to you?
- Why do you think it's important for you to take action to preserve your civil liberties?
- What have you done to demonstrate that you are a civil liberties activist?
- How did you show leadership in your actions?
- What challenges did you have to overcome?
- How will you continue your commitment to civil liberties in college?

**ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP:**

- 15 scholarship winners will each receive \$7,000 toward their first year of college
- Winners will become part of an elite class of scholar-activists who will be invited to participate in the Youth Activist Institute at the National ACLU office in New York City
  - The YAI is a several-day event in the summer of 2010

- Winners will learn more about the ACLU and its work, and they will be trained on how to be grassroots activists and leaders on their campuses

## American Civil Liberties Union Foundation 2010 Youth Activist Scholarship Program



## ACLU Youth Activist Scholarship Program Application

### A. PERSONAL INFORMATION *(to be completed by applicant)*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you first learn about the ACLU Youth Scholarship Program?

\_\_\_\_\_

***Please Note:*** The purpose of the ACLU Foundation scholarship is to provide young civil liberties activists with financial assistance in obtaining a college degree. The scholarship is intended to pay for tuition and room/board for the recipient's first year of college, and will be sent directly to the college's office of financial aid. In the event that the recipient should receive a full scholarship from his/her college and does not need to pay for these expenses, the scholarship can only be used for other direct educational expenses for the recipient's first year of college, to be distributed through a school-sanctioned account, i.e. a student account in the official school bookstore. The scholarship can not be used for specific or individual purchases, such as a computer, lab fees, or items for a dorm room. Any remaining funds that cannot be used by the recipient for direct educational expenses will be given to the recipient's nominating ACLU affiliate to be used for youth outreach and programming. All funds must be distributed by February 2011 and any remaining amount will be similarly given to the nominating affiliate. Funds can only be distributed once, and any additional scholarship funding that is sent to the affiliate can not be recalled. No

*funds can be given directly to the scholarship winner into a private account, and funds can not be sent to the university and then reimbursed as cash to the recipient.*

**For the applicants:** I agree to the rules of the ACLU Foundation scholarship process. I affirm that the information enclosed in the application is accurate and original to me, and I authorize the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation to reproduce, distribute, create derivative works of and publicly display my essay in all media now known or hereafter developed in connection with its mission, including for promotional purposes. If I am a recipient of the 2010 ACLU Youth Scholarship, I grant the ACLU Foundation the right to use my name, likeness, and biographical information in all media in connection with ACLU Foundation's mission, including promotional materials without any further compensation or permission.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For applicants under 18: Consent from a Parent or Legal Guardian is also required**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ represent that I am the [parent/guardian] of the above named individual. I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents hereof. I hereby consent to the foregoing on his/her behalf.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT**

Please submit to the affiliate your most recent transcript to demonstrate the GPA requirement.

**C. ESSAY**

On separate pages, please attach a personal statement of 1,000 words or less describing your civil liberties activism. Please include a combination of the following: your understanding of what it means to be a civil liberties activist, specific examples of how you have demonstrated your dedication to civil liberties, challenges that you had to overcome in doing so, how you showed leadership in your actions, and how you plan on continuing your activism in college and beyond.

**D. RECOMMENDATION FORM**

**Section I – To be completed by the applicant.**

Name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Title of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

I waive  do not waive  my right to access information on the recommendation form. *The ACLU does not require that you waive your right to review the recommendations in your file as a condition for award of a scholarship. However, you have the option of signing such a waiver in the event that your reference requires that you waive access to the recommendation. If you waive the right to access information on the recommendation form, please ensure that the affiliate receives the recommendation in a sealed envelope.*

**Section II – To be completed by applicant’s reference (not a family member).**

On an attached page, please type the answers to the following questions:

1. In what capacity and how long have you known the applicant?
2. How has the applicant shown his/her commitment and activism to civil liberties?  
Please provide specific examples.
3. How has the applicant shown leadership and teamwork in his/her community, both through his/her activism and otherwise. Please provide specific examples.
4. How do you see the applicant continuing his/her civil liberties activism in college?
5. Additional comments (including information regarding financial need):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**E. AFFILIATE ENDORSEMENT FORM** *(to be completed by affiliate)*

This is the endorsement for: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of candidate

*Please note: the affiliate cannot endorse a current client or witness in a legal case*

On an attached page, please type the answers to the following questions:

1. What led you to nominate this student for the ACLU Youth Activist Scholarship?
2. Has the applicant worked with your affiliate before? If so, how has the applicant aided your affiliate's youth program objectives?
3. In what ways do you believe that the applicant will continue his/her commitment to civil liberties through some form of student activism in college?
4. Additional comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

F. **FINAL CHECKLIST** *(to be completed by the affiliate and sent with the application):*

- Personal Information**
  - Completed by the applicant (and signed by parent/guardian if the applicant is under 18)
- High School Transcript**
- Personal Essay**
  - Completed by the applicant
- Recommendation Form**
  - Section I completed by the applicant
  - Section II completed by the applicant's reference (not a family member)
  - Sent to the affiliate in a sealed envelope if the right to access information on the recommendation form is waived
- Affiliate Endorsement Form**
  - Completed by the affiliate

Name of Affiliate Youth Scholarship Coordinator: **Daniel Sternberg**

Affiliate: Please submit the entirety of this completed form by November 16, 2009 to Daniel Sternberg in the Development Dept., NYCLU, 125 Broad St. 19<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 or by fax to (212) 607-3329.