

Application for the Bonner Scholarship at Rhodes College

For leaders who want to work for a more just and peaceful world

Program Description

The Rhodes Vision aims “to graduate students with a life-long passion for learning, a compassion for others, and the ability to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in their communities and world.” For Bonner Scholars, this means making a commitment to community service and social justice work, enhancing leadership skills, studying social issues, and cultivating a strong sense of self. Specifically, program participants participate in community service and leadership development programs to learn about themselves and their personal values and beliefs. They spend time in the study of social issues and leadership, understanding the efforts and challenges that other leaders in service have encountered, and they strive to connect their academic lives, personal beliefs, knowledge of leadership, philosophies of service, and their futures.

Candidate Characteristics

We look for individuals who embody some or all of the following characteristics:

Dedication

- You have demonstrated a dedication to pursuing social issues and understanding public policy over an extended period of time through leadership activities, political activism, social justice work, church activities, and/or community service participation.
- You have an issue about which you are passionate and you have worked or want to work on that issue.

Activism

- Your activities are for the greater good.
- You recognize injustice.
- You make a difference in your community and you mobilize others to work with you to make a difference too.
- You engage in understanding and changing public policy.

Diverse Perspective

- You are from a diverse background yourself or you have been exposed to a variety of people, experiences, and perspectives.
- You know you are a part of a bigger world and you care about people in other cultures, neighborhoods, and countries.

Challenging

- You are constantly pursuing a better way of doing things.
- You care about things happening in the world and you want to discuss them.
- You aren't afraid to take a controversial stance.

Compassion

- You are compassionate towards others, which includes your friends and family, but also those from backgrounds very different from your own.
- You want to live in a world that is inclusive, fair and honest.

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For leaders who work to address significant social issues

Name _____ Female ____ Male
Last First Middle Social Security Number

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Ethnic Status (*Optional*) _____ Email Address(es) _____

Are either of your parents or guardians college graduates? ____yes ____ no

This scholarship requires that the recipient's Expected Family Contribution as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) be below \$7,500. A few exceptions will be made for outstanding candidates whose gross family income is less than \$85,000. In order for us to verify this information and consider your application, be sure to submit your CSS PROFILE to Rhodes by January 15.

Please submit your answers to the following questions:

1. Describe two activities in which you have participated over the past four years that demonstrate your dedication to pursuing social issues over an extended period of time through leadership activities, political activism, social justice work, church activities, and/or community service participation. Include the name of the organization or project, a description of your role(s), the impact it had on the community, and the impact it had on your life. Activities which address problems in the areas of poverty, environmental action, women's issues, healthcare, diversity issues, education/literacy, and other social issues are of particular interest.
2. Described on the first part of this application are the characteristics we are looking for in candidates for this scholarship. Give specific examples of times in your life that you demonstrated the characteristic you most embody.
3. What is one of the major social problems facing our communities or world that you would like to help address while at college. How can you and other college students work on this problem in constructive ways?
4. How do you seek to relate to people who are from different races or cultures, who are hungry or homeless, and/or who have different physical or mental abilities. Give a specific personal example.
5. What is the role of public policy and government – be it at the local, state or national level – in making the world a more just and peaceful place? If possible, please provide a specific example of a policy or law that has impacted an issue or population you care about.
6. REFERENCES: Submit the names and phone numbers of two adults who have supervised or been aware of the commitments you discuss above.

Send your completed application by February 15 to Anthony Siracusa, Community Service Coordinator by:

- o Email at Siracusa@rhodes.edu
- o Mail at Rhodes College, 2000 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38112.