



RANCHO DAMACITAS
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

NEW HEIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To successfully complete the NEW HEIGHTS Scholarship application process, please review the following submission requirements. An application will not be processed until all required documents have been received. It is ok to submit an application with essay first and then the additional documents as they become available. See specific instructions below for NEW STUDENTS and RETURNING STUDENTS. Application, essay and supporting documents are DUE by September 30th for the fall term and February 28th for the spring term. These due dates do not apply to students in trade/vocational school. For questions, contact Steve Liapis, Director of Emancipated Services, at (951) 302-2317 ext.241, or via email: steve@4kidsfirst.org. Thank you.

NEW STUDENTS

Submissions must include:

1. NEW HEIGHTS Scholarship Application for NEW STUDENTS ONLY
2. Request Letter – A 1-page letter where you, the student, makes a formal request for financial support, including a brief description of why you are requesting a scholarship, an approximate amount being requested and how you intend to utilize the funds. Please be fairly specific with your plans for the funding (e.g. books, food, bus passes, rent, parking permit, etc.). This letter will be kept on file with your application and its contents will be shared with Rancho Damacitas' CEO, Board of Directors, scholarship committee and donors to the scholarship program.
3. Dependency Verification / Ward of the Court Letter provided by county of jurisdiction
4. Financial Aid Award Summary (when available)
5. Proof of Enrollment / Class Schedule indicating # of units enrolled (when available)
6. Unofficial College Transcripts (*except first-time freshman) – must include previous term grades, units completed, term GPA, and cumulative GPA
7. If Trade / Vocational Program, provide Certificate of Completion (*At the discretion of Rancho Damacitas NEW HEIGHTS Scholarship Program, funding for trade / vocational programs may be postponed or awarded upon graduation / completion of program. See scholarship program guidelines for more information.)
8. Essay: 3-5 pages, typed and double-spaced. Please title and include your name at the top (see topics below).

ESSAY TOPICS – NEW STUDENTS ONLY (Includes Trade / Vocational School students)

Please discuss each of these topics to the best of your ability. We appreciate your honesty and completeness.

- Help us get to know you. What personal qualities make you a good candidate for this scholarship?
- Share any experience you have volunteering or serving others in your community.
- Are you ready to challenge yourself to become a successful student and independent adult? If so, how?
- Briefly describe your childhood and your experience in foster care. It is not necessary to give details about why you entered foster care but feel free to share what you're comfortable sharing. Where did you grow up? Describe your placement(s) (e.g. foster home, group home, relative caregiver). How long were you in foster care and how many placements did you experience?
- What is your current living situation? Safe and stable housing? Roommates? What city do you live in?

- Describe your experience in school, your favorite classes and teachers, challenges and triumphs, sports, clubs, or other activities you've been involved in. What is your favorite memory of school?
- Have you resided on the Rancho Damacitas campus or participated in any of our other programs?
- Describe your educational and career plans. Have you declared a major? Why did you choose your college/university? What is the salary range of the career you would like to pursue? Have you contacted a campus counselor or any other advisor/mentor to help you with your education and career plans?
- Describe your other financial resources (e.g. employment / wages, personal savings, financial aid, family contributions, grants or other scholarships, etc.). How much will these other resources contribute? Are you currently working or have had a job in the past? (Please continue to page 2)
- What are your top 3 goals for the future and how do you plan to achieve them?
- Do you have children? If so, describe your plan(s) for child care while you are in school.
- Tell us about your support system or supportive adults in your life.
- How else can Rancho Damacitas assist you in achieving your educational / career goals?
- Describe how receiving a scholarship will impact your life and your ability to succeed in college.
- Describe your alternate plan(s) if scholarship funding was not awarded.
- What's your favorite thing to do in your spare time? Favorite book? Hobbies or other interests?

RETURNING STUDENTS

Submissions must include:

1. NEW HEIGHTS Scholarship Application for RETURNING STUDENTS
2. Financial Aid Award Summary (when available)
3. Proof of enrollment / class schedule indicating term, courses and # of units enrolled (when available)
4. Unofficial college transcripts (*except first-time freshman) – must include: previous courses taken, grades, units completed, term GPA, and cumulative GPA
5. Essay: 3-5 pages, typed and double-spaced. Please title and include your name at the top. (see topics below)

ESSAY TOPICS – RETURNING STUDENTS

- How are you? What's new? Any interesting news to share since your previous application?
- Describe your academic progress, including any triumphs and challenges this past year.
- Describe the courses you took and what was expected. Was it more challenging or easier than anticipated?
- Are you on track to graduate? When is your anticipated graduation date/term/year?
- What is your current living situation? Safe and stable housing? Roommates? What city do you live in?
- Have you had opportunities to incorporate your learning into your personal life? How so?
- Describe how you are balancing school with home life – any challenges or discoveries?
- Describe how receiving a scholarship has impacted your life and your ability to succeed in college.
- How else can Rancho Damacitas assist you in achieving your educational / career goals?

Submission Options

Please submit your completed application using any of the following options:

- U.S. Mail: Rancho Damacitas / Attn: Steve Liapis / Scholarships, 38950 Mesa Rd., Temecula, CA 92592
- Fax: (951) 302-2307 *(Please include a cover sheet)
- Email: scholarships@4kidsfirst.org

www.4kidsfirst.org