

INTERNATIONAL FREE & ACCEPTED MODERN MASONS, INC. AND ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Illustrious James O. Dogan, 33° - *Supreme President/CEO*

Zula Rayford Scholarship Department 2018 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Here is a Chance to Win a Scholarship of Your Choice

Dear Scholarship Applicant,

We want to invite you to apply for financial assistance through the **Zula Rayford Scholarship Fund**. Scholarships are made possible by **International Free & Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star**. We want to thank and acknowledge **Illustrious James O. Dogan, 33° - Supreme President/CEO** and the Supreme Board of Directors for their willingness to offer scholarship awards to high school seniors seeking to pursue a college degree. This is your chance to win a scholarship to help offset the soaring costs of higher education.

In order to be considered for a **2018 Zula Rayford Scholarship Candidate**, applicants must meet the guidelines below. Applicants must complete all forms and provide all information requested. The application packet must include a copy of the high school diploma and the GED.

Each candidate must write an essay of ideas and opinions focused on one selected topic chosen from the list provided. All essays will be awarded points as illustrated on the Essay Rubric. Incomplete entry packets will automatically disqualify the applicant. All information must be mailed in a single envelope to the National Director.

I. Guidelines

- Applicants must be under 21 years of age (*proof of age is required*)
- Applicants must be related to a member of the organization
- A copy of high school diploma/GED must be included with the application
- Scholarship and Grant winners must apply for their checks within (1) year after being notified (*after one year, scholarship check(s) cannot be claimed*)
- Scholarship winner(s) or grant recipient(s) will have to wait five (5) years before being able to re-submit an application to the scholarship program and/or request a grant

II. General Requirements

Essay must be submitted by **June 15, 2018** to the Scholarship Director written on one of the following subjects:

- ❖ *In your opinion, what is the most severe crisis or problem facing Americans today?*
- ❖ *Should a person's past moral conduct be considered in determining their present credibility?*

- ❖ *Individuals tend to express their thoughts and positions of social issues that prevail in our country (i.e. immigration, fair and equal pay, gender equity, gun violence, health care/reform, law enforcement). Is the use of social media a viable platform for expressing support or contrary opinions? Provide other strategies that can be explored and give provide insights on how the strategy can be implemented.*
- ❖ *What causes the most conflict between teens and their parents? Share any personal experience that might support your opinion. With your experience, what was the outcome?*
- ❖ *When should teens intervene to help a friend who is going in the wrong direction of life? What should they do to help that friend? Share any personal experience that might support your opinion.*

- Essay should be **no less than 500 words or more than 2,000 words**
- Essay must be **typed and double spaced**
- Essay must include sources/references for all citations
- Three (3) copies of the essay must be supplied with the application

III. Essays will be Judged on the Following: (Very Important)

- ✓ Knowledge of the subject displayed by the writer
- ✓ Clarity and readability; ease of understanding the thoughts without difficulty
- ✓ Skill in organization and preparation of the material
- ✓ Use of concrete illustrations from the writer's own community/world
- ✓ Neatness and effective presentation of the material

IV. Scoring Rubric for Essays submitted

Criteria

- Relevance (**0-3 points**)
- Thoroughness (**0-3 points**)
- Organization (**0-2 points**)
- Grammar/Mechanics/Usage (**0-2 points**)

Relevance:

- Essay does not respond to subject(s) posed or is deliberately false (0 pts.)
- Essay is incomplete/contains excessive discussion of unrelated issues (1 pt.)
- Essay only briefly discusses relevant topics/introduces unrelated issues (2 pts.)
- Essay responds to the subject meaningfully/focuses only on related issues (3 pts.)

Thoroughness:

- Essay completely lacks relevant details/is deliberately false (0 pts.)
- Essay contains significant omissions of detail (1 pt.)
- Essay includes many relevant details, but some may be missing (2 pts.)
- Essay details fully with the entire prompt (3 pts.)

Organization:

- Essay is unorganized or illogical, rambles or repeats ideas, and/or is deliberately false (0 pts.)
- Essay contains minor problems of organization or logic/does not always effectively transition between ideas (1 pts.)
- Essay is well organized and logically presented, contains smooth, clear transitions between ideas (2 pts.)

Grammar/Mechanics/Usage:

- Essay contains major problems with mechanics of language and awkward sentence construction, is frequently difficult to understand, and/or is deliberately false (0 pts.)
- Essay contains only minor issues with mechanics/is generally easy to read (1 pt.)
- Essay is written in clear, readable prose/contains no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation (2 pts.)

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

*It will be taken for granted that the essay completed and submitted for review and consideration of a scholarship is the applicant's original work. The repeat verbiage from other writers, or cutting and pasting from the internet without appropriate paraphrasing or citation and documentation constitutes **plagiarism**. The penalty for plagiarism will render this application invalid.*

V. Prizes and Winners will be Announced at the 2018 Supreme Convention

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Contestant's Entry Form

(Must be completely filled out and pinned, stapled, or clipped to essay)

Contestant's Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

High School: _____
Year Graduated: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Chapter or Lodge Affiliation: _____

Other Relatives in International Masons: _____
Attending College: _____
Address: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Send Application and Essay to:

Dr. Lorraine Cornish-Harrison, *National Director*
Zula Rayford Scholarship Department
International Masons and Eastern Stars
1812 Hillenwood Road ▪ Baltimore, Maryland 21239
Email: scholarships@internationalmasons.org

Contest closes: **June 15, 2018**
No application or essay will be accepted after the deadline