



A C O R N
E Q U A L I T Y
F U N D

Scholarship Application

January 20, 2009

Thank you for your interest in an Acorn Equality Fund scholarship. Our scholarships are designed to provide academic financial support for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered students, allies or the children of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered parents. The 2010 scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 with up to \$20,000 being disbursed.

To be eligible, the applicant must retain permanent residence in the AEF service area (all Illinois counties except: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will) and attend any accredited post-secondary educational facility.

Enclosed are the materials to complete to be considered for a scholarship. Please read all materials thoroughly and provide the information for all questions so the scholarship committee can provide scholarships to the most deserving candidates.

There are two types of scholarships awarded by the Acorn Equality Fund. You may apply for both types; however, you may only receive **one**. You must complete two separate applications to be considered for both scholarships. The **Luke Scholarship** is based on **academic performance and need**. The committee will review your; academic performance, response to the enclosed essay topics (included later in the packet), description of financial need, and references. The **Acorn Scholarship** is based on **academic performance, volunteerism and advocacy**. The Acorn committee will review your; academic performance, response to the enclosed essay topics (included later in the packet), list of extra-curricular activities and references.

Please note you will be completing two essays, one essay will address either the Luke criteria or the Acorn criteria. The other essay is thought provoking and designed to give the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee a chance to get to know you better. It is your opportunity to express yourself.

Scholarship recipients will be notified in November of 2009.

Congratulations on making the decision to apply for an Acorn Equality Fund scholarship. We are thrilled by your interest, and wish you the best of luck.

Matthew G. Orndorff, Chair



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Biographical Information

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

City:_____ **State:**_____ **Zip Code:**_____

Phone:_____ **E-Mail:**_____

Permanent Address: _____

Additional Phone: _____

Social Security: _____ **Birth date:** _____

Gender: ___ **Female** ___ **Male**

Orientation Eligibility:

 ___ **Gay**

 ___ **Bisexual**

 ___ **Transgendered**

 ___ **Child of a Gay Parent**

 ___ **Child of a Bisexual Parent**

 ___ **Child of a Transgendered Parent**

 ___ **Ally**

This application is for:

 ___ **Acorn Scholarship**
 (Academics, Volunteerism and Advocacy)

 ___ **Luke Scholarship**
 (Academics and Financial Need)



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Educational History

Current Educational Institution: _____

Address: _____

Date of Graduation (or expected date): _____ **GPA:** _____

Extra-Curricular Activities (Include volunteerism and advocacy):

Post-Secondary Plans:

- GED**
- Trade School/Technical School**
- College (Undergraduate)**
- College (Graduate School)**
- Other Please specify:** _____

Admission Status:

- Planning to Apply**
- Applied**
- Accepted**
- Attending**

If Attending:

- _____ **Class Status (1st, 2nd year, etc.)**
- _____ **Hours Completed**
- _____ **GPA**

Course of Study (planned or actual):



Confidentiality/Ethical Statement

All documents received by the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee are considered **confidential**. However, some material is carefully selected from applications and letters of reference to prepare introductions of the recipients for an awards ceremony. In addition, we might use certain scholarship winners and their personal information to help attract attention and future applicants for the Acorn Equality Fund. If you are not comfortable with this, please be aware **it will NOT affect your eligibility** for a scholarship.

1. If chosen for this scholarship, I would like to serve as an advocate to promote the Acorn Equality Fund. YES NO

2. If chosen for this scholarship, the Acorn Equality Fund may make this information available to press members. YES NO

3. The Acorn Equality Fund may use my information in their promotional materials and future press releases. YES NO

4. The Acorn Equality Fund would appreciate you taking a moment to tell us how you came to know about the scholarship opportunities the fund has to offer. This will help us reach a wider audience for future applications.

I hereby state that ALL of the information provided in my entire application is, to the best of my knowledge, truthful. I am aware that if the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee discovers that any of my materials are fraudulent or untruthful, I will be disqualified.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



References

Please, select three references to provide letters of recommendation for you. References may be people who can testify to your academic success, your financial need, your commitment to community service, or even your personal virtues and qualities. Please enclose each of the three letters of reference with your application materials. **The reference MUST seal their letter in an envelope and sign their name across the flap of the envelope.** Your name needs to be on the FRONT of the envelope. Any letters of reference not sealed in a separate envelope with a signature across the envelope flap will not be considered with the application.

Reference One

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Relationship: _____

Reference Two

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Relationship: _____

Reference Three

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Relationship: _____



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Essay Questions

This page includes the essay questions which must be completed and returned with your application. Each response should be written on a separate sheet of paper and attached to your application materials. In the packet you return, you will have two (2) essays. Please label each essay, for example, one will be labeled Luke Scholarship – Academics and Financial Need and the other Thought Provocation.

Luke Scholarship – Academics and Financial Need

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe your educational success stories and the obstacles you have had to overcome in order to be successful. Also describe your financial need for upcoming educational expenses. How do you expect to cover the majority of your expenses?

Acorn Scholarship – Volunteerism and Advocacy

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe your involvement in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community. Comment on community service, awards received, hours volunteered, and issues advocated.

Thought Provocation (all applicants must respond to one of following)

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe how being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered has affected your life? (Or how has being the CHILD of a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered PARENT affected your life?)

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe where you see yourself in ten years. What will you be doing? How will you be using your talents to improve the quality of life for other gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered people? What are your dreams for life?

For previous award winners:

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe how your previous award(s) and involvement with Acorn Equality Fund has impacted your life.



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Checklist

The following checklist will help guarantee that you include everything necessary in your application for you to be considered for an Acorn Equality Fund scholarship. Please, make sure you have completed **EVERYTHING** on the list before mailing it to the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee.

_____ Biographical Information

_____ Educational History

_____ Confidentiality/Ethical Statement

_____ Two Essays

_____ Reference Page

_____ Letters of Recommendations from References
(Sealed in separate envelopes and signed across the flap)

_____ Official Transcripts
(From your high school, college, university, technical, or trade school, or a copy of your GED certificate)

All materials must be postmarked by **Friday, October 9, 2009**. Any application packets postmarked **after October 9, 2009** will not be considered.

Please mail all materials in one envelope to the following address:

Acorn Equality Fund
PO BOX 6286
Peoria, Illinois 61650

If you have any further questions, or would like help in completing your application, feel free to contact the Acorn Equality Fund at acorn1999@gmail.com.

