



### **2019-2020 The Step Ahead Scholarship Announcement**

BankTennessee is pleased to announce that the application process for the 2019-2020 The Step Ahead Scholarship is now open. The Step Ahead Scholarship program is a collaborative effort of A Step Ahead Foundation and Girls Inc. of Memphis to support their commitment to encouraging the educational advancement and leadership development of young women in the greater Memphis community. The Step Ahead Scholarship is a county-wide post-secondary scholarship program for young women committed to positively impacting the greater Memphis area by encouraging academic success, effective life planning and healthy birth timing. BankTennessee manages the program.

The scholarship is available to any 17 – 35 year old female Shelby County resident with plans to attend an accredited institution of post-secondary education. This may include a college or university, as well as a technical or vocational program.

Preference will be given to applicants with the expressed intentions of using their education to help the greater Memphis community.

Multiple scholarships of at least \$2,000 will be awarded from a \$300,000 fund. Awards will be based on strength of application and estimated financial need. Each award is a one-time scholarship; however, recipients are encouraged to maintain good academic status, volunteer with A Step Ahead and/or Girls Inc. of Memphis, and reapply each year as needed.

**Scholarship application forms, eligibility requirements, and instructions can be found at [www.astepaheadfoundation.org](http://www.astepaheadfoundation.org) and [www.girlsincmemphis.org](http://www.girlsincmemphis.org). Completed application packets must be received by April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please see instructions page for submission details.**

**Questions or requests for technical assistance concerning The Step Ahead Scholarship should be directed to [scholarship@astepaheadfoundation.org](mailto:scholarship@astepaheadfoundation.org).**

**Award recipients will be notified and posted on our websites by May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**For information on programs and services of A Step Ahead and Girls Inc. of Memphis, please visit [www.astepaheadfoundation.org](http://www.astepaheadfoundation.org) and [www.girlsincmemphis.org](http://www.girlsincmemphis.org).**

**2019-2020 Step Ahead Scholarship  
Instructions**

The Step Ahead Scholarship Program is dedicated to recognizing and providing financial assistance for eligible young women in Shelby County who are getting 'a step ahead' by seeking their post-secondary education. These promising young women are committed to public service, academic success, and responsible life and family planning. The ultimate goal of the program is to increase education and career opportunities, and to foster leadership and dedication to the greater Memphis community.

**Eligibility**

- Candidates must be female and between the ages of 17 and 35.
- Candidates must have been a resident of Shelby County for a period of at least 2 years.
- Candidates must have a record of community and public service, along with good academic standing and/or demonstrate outstanding potential in their chosen field of study or career.
- Candidates must, through their application, demonstrate an understanding of the importance of effective life and family planning, including, but not limited to, quality education and community involvement.
- Candidates must have applied to an accredited institution of secondary education at the time of application. This includes colleges and universities, as well as technical and vocational schools.
- Candidates must include their most recent transcript.
- Candidates are highly encouraged to include a current resume.

**Application**

- The application is attached. All questions must be answered. The applicant's most recent transcript must be attached to the completed application, along with the applicant's 200-300 word essay or a link to their YouTube video. Candidates are highly encouraged to include a current resume.
- The evaluation rubric is attached. It lists the topics that will be used by the scholarship committee to evaluate the applications. Please note that, in addition to the other topics, points will be awarded if applicant has participated in or volunteered with A Step Ahead or Girls Inc. of Memphis.
- Completed Application packets must be submitted to The Step Ahead Scholarship Committee by April 5<sup>th</sup>.**
- Award notifications will be sent by May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Scholarship funds will be distributed at a reception this summer. Checks will be made payable to the academic institutions. It will be the responsibility of the recipient to forward the check to her school.

Questions or for technical assistance concerning The Step Ahead Scholarship should be directed to [scholarship@astepaheadfoundation.org](mailto:scholarship@astepaheadfoundation.org).

Completed Application packet may be emailed to [scholarship@astepaheadfoundation.org](mailto:scholarship@astepaheadfoundation.org); or hard copies may be mailed to:

A Step Ahead Foundation  
P.O. Box 41601, Memphis, TN 38174



**2019-2020 Step Ahead Scholarship  
Scoring Rubric**

This rubric is for informational purposes only. It lists the topics that will be used by the scholarship committee to evaluate the applications. **It is not to be filled out by the applicant.** But applicant should keep these topics in mind as she fills out the application and answers the prompt.

	1-10 points	Comments
Participated in or volunteered with Girls Inc. of Memphis or A Step Ahead Foundation		
Potential for <i>or</i> expresses interest in public service promoting values of Girls Inc. of Memphis or A Step Ahead Foundation through chosen course of study		
Demonstrates understanding and importance of advocating for gender equity.		
Demonstrates understanding and importance of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC)		
Expresses interest in returning to Memphis		
Prior community service involvement		
Potential for academic success		
Total		

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1. Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Years lived in Memphis/Shelby County \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Current City of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Current Status (circle one)

High School Senior      Undergraduate Student      Graduate Student

Technical, vocational, beauty school, etc.      Not in school

Current (or most recent) school and years attended \_\_\_\_\_

Current (or most recent) GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Intended 2019-2020 school \_\_\_\_\_

Intended 2019-2020 program of study \_\_\_\_\_

Intended year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

2. Anticipated tuition, room, board and fees, for 2019-2020 \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount awarded from other scholarships (Hope, etc.), financial aid, work study assistance, etc. that you will be receiving for the 2019-2020 year \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please list awards and amounts (attach additional page if needed.)

Amount requested from The Step Ahead Scholarship for 2019-2020 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you have been the recipient of The Step Ahead Scholarship in the past, please list the year(s) in which you received the scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

3. If applicable, please list and describe involvement and/or affiliation you have had with A Step Ahead Foundation and/or Girls Inc. of Memphis, including volunteer activities. Please include months/years you were involved. Note that lack of involvement with these groups will not exclude your application from consideration (attach additional page if needed.)



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4. Please list any community involvement (volunteering, internship or employment related to public health, public service, education, community service, etc.) including months/years you were involved, and organization names (attach additional page if needed.)
5. **Please attach** a copy of your current **MOST RECENT TRANSCRIPTS**. This is an important part of the application and **MUST** be included in order for your application to be complete and eligible for consideration. Attaching a current **RESUME** is highly suggested.
6. Please **answer** the **PROMPT** below with either a 30 second to 2 minute YouTube video OR a 200-300 word essay. Please see examples of past videos on the ASAF and Girls Inc. of Memphis websites. If submitting an essay, please attach it to this application. If submitting a video, please list your YouTube video link-\_\_\_\_\_

**PROMPT:**

After examining the websites of Girls Inc. of Memphis and A Step Ahead Foundation ([www.girlsincmemphis.org](http://www.girlsincmemphis.org) and [www.astepaheadfoundation.org](http://www.astepaheadfoundation.org)), discuss how you would use your chosen degree to encourage and enable young women to be strong, smart and bold, and to get a step ahead in life through effective family planning and education.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), confirm that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge, that my submission to the scholarship committee, whether an essay or video, is my own work; and that discovery of dishonesty or plagiarism on the application form will result in my disqualification from consideration.

I agree to inform the scholarship committee of any changes to the above information including updated information on outside funding, scholarships, and financial awards for the 2019-2020 school year.

I understand that my work, whether an essay or video, becomes the property of A Step Ahead Foundation and Girls Inc. of Memphis, and may be used by them for marketing, development, or other purposes.

I acknowledge that if awarded a scholarship, I will attend and remain in good standing with an accredited educational institution.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_