



AAUW - Sonora Branch

Box 3903, Sonora CA 95370

## Criteria for Awarding AAUW-Sonora Scholarships

AAUW Scholarships are awarded to recipients after careful consideration by our Scholarship Committee. Every effort is made to evaluate the whole person and her potential and no single factor (other than gender) is all-important. The following are the criteria we consider:

1. **Gender.** In accord with AAUW's involvement in the education of women and their wider participation in today's society, our scholarships are awarded to female students.
2. **Academic Achievement.** A transcript must accompany the completed application. A chosen student's GPA is usually 3.5 or better. We consider improvement over the years and the type and difficulty of courses taken as well as SAT scores.
3. **Extra-Curricular Activities.** We look at the student's participation in school groups and activities, special recognition and awards, employment and any contribution to the community as a volunteer.
4. **Essay.** We look for clarity of expression and direction in the student's written statement about her life and her goals. Writing skills count as well as correct grammar and spelling, but the essay is mainly a way to learn about the student beyond the merely factual.
5. **Two (2) Letters of Reference.** These may be from a counselor, teacher, coach, member of the clergy, Scout or 4-H leader or anyone familiar with the student's accomplishments and character, but excluding family members and peers.
6. **Financial Situation.** We consider the student's personal and family resources as well as other financial aid received or earned. We understand that there are many factors besides "need" contributing to this evaluation.

And for finalists:

7. **Personal Interview** with the AAUW Scholarship Committee.

## Scholarship Application Instructions

*The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Our scholarships are available to graduating young women to encourage and support their continuing education.*

1. We only accept scholarship applications from the following schools:
  - Sonora High School** --deadline March 6, 2020
  - Sonora Alternative Education (Cassina and Ted Bird)**--Deadline March 6, 2020
  - Summerville High School**--Deadline April 2, 2020
  - Big Oak Flat (Don Pedro and Tioga)**--Deadline April 9, 2020
  - Columbia College**--please follow the Columbia College scholarship application process and deadlines
2. Download the AAUW – Sonora Branch scholarship application from the website, [sonora-ca.aauw.net](http://sonora-ca.aauw.net) Type directly on the downloaded application, the spaces **WILL NOT** adjust for your answers, so be concise.
3. Obtain an official transcript signed by your counselor.
4. Write an essay of at least one page that includes an autobiographical sketch, a statement of what college means to you and your goals for the future. We want to learn about you, beyond the factual information provided elsewhere in the application. Consider the application to be an opportunity to demonstrate your writing skills while sharing your interests, ambitions, and priorities. The essay will influence us strongly. Grammar and spelling count.
5. Include two letters of reference. These may be from a teacher, counselor, member of the clergy, coach, Scout or 4-H leader, or anyone who is familiar with your achievements and character, with the exception of your family and peers. We ask that the references be drawn from different segments of your life and not all from the same source, such as teachers.
6. Scan and attach all parts of your application. Then email the document to [sonoraAAUW.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:sonoraAAUW.scholarship@gmail.com) with your school's name in the subject line.
7. If you are among our finalists, you will be asked to participate in an interview with the AAUW – Sonora Branch Scholarship Committee.
8. When final selections are made, the winners will be notified and invited to attend our awards luncheon in May.

Sonora Branch, AAUW  
Scholarship Application

Name (include nickname, if applicable):

Mailing Address:

E-Mail Address:

Age:

Date of Birth:

Phone:

Father's name:

Occupation:

Mother's name:

Occupation:

Number of children (including you) being supported by family:

Estimated amount your family will contribute to your support each year:

Explain any circumstances that limit your family's support capabilities:

Name and location of college you plan to attend:

Prospective major:

Type of degree: Bachelor (4-year) or Associate (2-year)

Why did you choose this college and major?

School or community activities (clubs, athletics, student government, committees, offices you have held):

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their school or community activities. The box occupies most of the page below the text prompt.

Special awards, achievements, honors (include dates):

Employment:

List the names of the people you have asked to provide you with Letters of Recommendation, including job description and phone numbers: