



Quad Cities Pearls Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 32
Moline, IL 61266

January 19, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is an application form and scholarship criteria for annual scholarships offered by Quad Cities Pearls Foundation, Inc. in affiliation with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Xi Eta Omega Chapter.

Please provide copies of this information to senior students currently attending and graduating May / June 2026, or those who graduated in December 2025, and who meet the qualifications set forth in the attached criteria.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Diane Simmons at (563)359-5784.

Applications are due, and must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 13, 2026.

Applications should be submitted to:

Diane Simmons
c/o Quad Cities Pearls Foundation, Inc.
4407 Fairhaven Rd.
Davenport, IA 52807

Sincerely,

Tina Y. Thomas, President

Diane Simmons, Scholarship Committee Chairman



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This information is for senior students graduating in May / June 2026, or those who graduated in December 2025, and who meet the qualifications set forth in the attached criteria. Give number 6, of the checklist, extra attention and follow the guidelines because there are no exceptions.

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Diane Simmons, Scholarship Committee



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Scholarship Criteria

This scholarship offered by the Quad Cities Pearls Foundation in affiliation with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Xi Eta Omega Chapter is a means of cultivating and encouraging high scholastic standards for today's youth.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for this scholarship.

1. The applicants must be a minority female of African-American descent. Applicant must be a current high school senior graduating in December 2025 or May / June 2026.
2. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
3. Applicants must write a short biographical statement that includes educational and career goals.
4. Applicants must write a 300 – 500-word essay on the following topic:

Share your thoughts on the importance of education. Also, share your plans for participation in community service projects in the future.

Essay requirements: 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, 1 – 2 pages, and 1-inch margins. All essays will be reviewed and a writing rubric will be utilized during the review process.

5. Applicants must submit **TWO** letters of references:
 - a. **One letter from an educator (teacher, coach, principal, counselor or club advisor)** regarding your academic and leadership accomplishments **WITHIN** the school setting.
 - b. **One letter from a pastor, youth advisor, employer or volunteer coordinator** regarding your community involvement or community service. This letter **MUST ADDRESS YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SETTING.**

*****A second letter submitted from a school teacher or any school representative from ANY school will disqualify you as a candidate.*****

6. An official copy of your transcript must accompany the application.
7. Applicants must provide a picture with the application.
8. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 13, 2026.

NOTE: The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient once acceptance from a two- or four-year degree institution has been verified.



Quad Cities Pearls Foundation, Inc.

Affiliate of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Eta Omega Chapter

Application (2 pages)

Contact Information	
Date	
Name	
Address	
City	
State & Zip Code	
Telephone	
Email	
Family	
Parent / Guardian	
Academic Information	
High School currently attending	
High School Counselor	
High School Rank	
Cumulative Grade Point Average	
Graduation Date	
ACT Score	
SAT Score	
College attending in the fall 2026	
City, State and Zip Code for the College	

List of achievements, awards and honors received:

List of organizations / activities / volunteerism you are actively involved in:

References:

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Applicant Signature _____

All information requested in your application package must be included in order to qualify for consideration.



Scholarship Application Guide to Help You

Question #3. Possible topics of discussion for education goals:

- Area(s)/field(s) of study/Minor(s) and/or Major(s)
- Degree(s) being pursued
- College(s) you plan to attend
- Career(s) of plan(s)
- Remember to explain “why” for all topics you discuss in your writing

Question #4. Education & Community Service

- Education is important because...
 - Why is pursuing and obtaining an education important to you? The community? Etc.
- Doing community service is important because...
 - Why is doing community service important to you? The community? Etc.
 - Examples of community service:
 - Volunteering to help the homeless
 - Volunteering to help the youth
 - Volunteering to help the elderly

Question #5. Reference Letters:

- Letter #1: **Examples** of School Academics/Involvement: What type of student are you? **From an educator (teacher, coach, principal, counselor, club advisor)**
 - Quality of work
 - Behavior in the classroom/school
 - Attendance
 - Meeting deadlines
 - Interacting with peers & teachers
 - Student organizations and/or clubs
 - Sports
 - The Arts: plays, band, choir, orchestra, and/or dance teams
- Letter #2: **Examples** of Community Involvement/Service: How have you contributed to your community? **From a youth advisor, pastor, employer, coordinator of volunteers,**
 - Youth organizations
 - Church activities
 - Community center activities
 - Little Miss Fashionetta
 - Cotillion
 - Mentoring and/or leadership programs
 - Interaction with peers & adults

Essay Rubric

	1 – Poor	2 – Fair	3 – Good
Content and Development	*Content is incomplete. *Major points are not clear.	*Content is not comprehensive & accurate. *Major points are addressed, but not well supported. *Content is inconsistent with regard to purpose and clarity of thought.	*Content is comprehensive and accurate. *Major points are stated clearly and are well supported. *Content and purpose of the writing are clear.
Organization and Structure	*Organization and structure detract from the message of the writer. *Introduction and/or conclusion is missing. *Paragraphs are disjointed and lack transition of thoughts.	*Structure of the paper is not easy to follow. *Introduction is missing or, if provided, does not preview major points. *Paragraph transitions need improvement. *Conclusion is missing, or if provided, does not flow from the body of the paper.	*Structure of the paper is clear and easy to follow. - Introductions provide sufficient background on the topic and previews major points. *Paragraph transitions are present and logical and maintain the flow of thought throughout the paper. *Conclusion is logical and flows from the body of the paper.
Format / Requirements 12 point font Times New Roman Double spaced 1-2 pages (300 – 500 words) 1 inch margins	*Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting. *Paper is inadequate / excessive in length.	*Paper follows most guidelines. *Paper is over / under word length.	*Paper follows designated guidelines. *Paper is the appropriate length as described for the assignment.
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	*Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. *Language uses jargon or conversational tone.	*Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. *Language lacks clarity or includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone.	*Rules of grammar, usage and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct. *Language is clear and precise; sentences display consistently strong and varied structure.



Scholarship Application Checklist

1. Application
2. List of achievements, awards and honors
3. List of organizations / activities
4. Biographical statement
5. Essay
6. Applicants must submit **TWO** letters of reference.
 - a. **One letter from an educator (teacher, coach, principal, counselor, or club advisor)** regarding your academics and leadership accomplishments **WITHIN** the school setting.
 - b. **One letter from a community member (pastor, youth advisor, employer, or volunteer coordinator)** regarding your community involvement or community service. This letter **MUST ADDRESS YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SETTING.**
7. Official Transcript: Hard copy (sent in a sealed envelope with the counselor's signature) or electronically (please send an email to smmns13@gmail.com if your school provides an electronic copy).
8. Letter of acceptance from a two- or four-year degree institutions
9. Picture

NOTE: All information requested must be included in order to qualify for consideration.

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