

Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ 2025 Scholarship Program

Scholarship Program Rules REVISED FOR 2025

1. Purpose of the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program

Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ is committed to the role of advancement and education in our personal and Christian lives. The Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program is intended to celebrate and reward the leadership and academic achievement of our Hispanic youth, and to contribute to the spirit and well being of the Hispanic Community.

2. Terms of the Program

In recognition of demonstrated leadership and accomplishments outside the classroom as well as academic performance, Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ will grant individual financial scholarships to selected students who meet the eligibility requirements of the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program described in section 3.

3. Eligibility Criteria

To apply, an applicant must be a registered parishioner in the Diocese of Arlington, of Hispanic descent, and must be attending or accepted as a student in a post-secondary, accredited college or university program.

4. Application Process

Eligible students will complete the application packet and submit it with the required supporting documentation.

The packet will include a resume highlighting academic achievement as well as involvement in the world beyond the classroom: Church, arts, music, environmental stewardship, community service, athletics, or other areas of interest.

A personal essay is required responding to the topic identified on Page 5. Essays may be typed or hand-written. Your signature is required at the bottom of the essay for it to be accepted.

A letter of recommendation from a member of the clergy, youth program director, or a religious education teacher from your parish is required.

Additionally, the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Committee requires two personal letters of reference to comment on the applicant's character and/or academic performance. The letters must not be from a parent or relative; they should come from counselors, teachers, employers, clergy, etc. Please ensure that contact information for these references are included in the letter, as the Committee may contact these references.

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All letters of recommendation must be signed originals or emails from an official email directly to AmigosEnCristoSMOS@gmail.com; copies or forwarded recommendations will not be accepted.

Please note that official transcripts of grades must be submitted. Unofficial transcripts and grade reports are not acceptable. Transcripts may be electronic transcripts from a school or university transcript service, or printed copies in sealed envelopes. Students currently enrolled in college must include all official college transcripts. High school seniors and college students who have completed less than one full quarter or semester of post-secondary education must include their high school transcript.

Applications packets must be complete and submitted either by mail or hand carried to the Saint Mary of Sorrows Parish Center office. The mailing address is:

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church
Attn: Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program 2025
5222 Sideburn Rd.
Fairfax, VA. 22032.

5. Application Deadline

The application must be received not later than May 30, 2025 to be considered.

6. Selection Process

The Committee will select award recipients on the basis of demonstrated leadership, active involvement in civic and/or religious activities, and academic performance, and quality of the essay. Selected award recipients will be notified by June 10th.

7. Obligations

Award recipients must be enrolled in an accredited two or four year college or university for the year in which their scholarship is granted. Proof of enrollment must be provided to the Committee. Proof of enrollment could be a letter of acceptance for the upcoming academic year for new college students or transferring college students, or current transcripts for current college students.

8. Award Distribution

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ dinner and silent auction on June 21st in Farrell Hall. Scholarship checks will be sent directly to the financial services office of your college. Please ensure that you provide the address to the financial services office of your school, and your student identification number, if you have one.

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9. Application Packet Check List

Please ensure that each item on this checklist is provided in your application submission. Please sign this form below indicating that all items have been included in your packet. **Incomplete packets will not be considered for a scholarship.**

- a. **Your Name:** _____
- b. **Application Form (Signed)**
- c. **Resume**
- d. **Personal Essay (Signed)**
- e. **Parish Letter of Recommendation**
- f. **2 Personal Letters of Reference (Signed by references) or Official Emails**
- g. **Official Transcripts**
- h. **Proof of Enrollment**
- i. **This Check List (Signed)**
- j. **Date:** _____

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Application Form

Please type or print all information except signatures. Information must be legible or application may not be considered.

Applicant Information:

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____

Permanent Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Arlington Diocese Parish: _____

High School: _____ Graduation Date: Month _____ Year _____

City _____ State _____ Telephone _____

Name of Post Secondary school that you plan to attend or are attending.

School Name _____ City _____ State _____

Years in College Completed: 0 1 2 3 4 5 (Circle One)

Major or Course of Study _____

Financial Services Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Student Identification Number _____

Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ is the sole authority for selecting recipients based on criteria as set forth in the programs rules. This application becomes property of Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program.

I acknowledge that decisions of Amigos en Cristo regarding the Amigos en Cristo † Friends in Christ Scholarship Program are final. I certify that I meet the basic eligibility requirements of the program as described in the program description and that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If requested, I agree to provide proof of the information that I have given on this form. Falsification of information may result in the immediate rescission of any scholarship granted.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

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Personal Essay (500 to 750 words)

The Catholic Church is celebrating a Jubilee year. Bishop Burbidge calls us to participate, saying:

"St. John Paul II taught us that, "The term 'Jubilee' speaks of joy; not just an inner joy but a jubilation which is manifested outwardly, for the coming of God is also an outward, visible, audible, and tangible event, as Saint John makes clear (cf. 1 John 1:1). It is therefore appropriate that every sign of joy should have its own outward expression. This will demonstrate that the Church rejoices in salvation. She invites everyone to rejoice, and she tries to create conditions to ensure that the power of salvation may be shared by all." May we take to heart these words of St. John Paul II and celebrate ... the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 with genuine joy that comes only from God, and may we outwardly manifest it in our lives as true pilgrims of hope."

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge,
Celebrating the Jubilee Years, March 7, 2024

How can you as a student and as a Catholic become a pilgrim of hope for others?

Signature _____