



Diamond Youth Foundation
PO Box 3955
Naperville, IL 60567

January 9, 2017

Dear Student:

The Diamond Youth Foundation is pleased to invite you to apply for our annual Scholarship Contest. In the past, our Foundation has given sixteen \$1,000 scholarship awards to deserving high school graduates. To be eligible for these awards, each student candidate must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or better, based upon a 4.0 grade scale. Primary consideration will be given to students residing in Northwestern, Western and Southwestern suburbs of Chicago and African American students but the scholarship committee will consider all qualified applicants.

To apply for the scholarship the student candidate must submit the following:

- A completed application form (see attached)
- A double-spaced, typewritten composition describing the goal(s) the student hopes to achieve upon completing their college education (maximum 2 pages)
- Financial need is part of the selection criteria. If you want your financial need to be considered, please provide a copy of the family's most recent Tax Return. **Please note - financial information is not mandatory, and is used only to verify an applicant's financial need.**
- An official copy of the student's academic transcript. **NOTE: official means the transcript has the official school seal affixed to or imprinted on the paperwork**

- Three letters of recommendation from:
 1. One letter from a school official (i.e., teacher, counselor, principal, coach)
 2. One letter from a leader of a church or community service group you are associated with (minister, youth group director, volunteer organization coordinator)
 3. One letter from another adult who can provide insight regarding your character and activities (church, community service, youth activity, neighbor, school official)

The selection process for scholarship awards will be based upon the following criteria:

- Academic Performance
- Demonstrated Leadership Skills
- Community Service
- Financial need

If selected as a finalist, you will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee. More details will be provided to all finalists.

Please mail your scholarship application package to:

Diamond Youth Foundation Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 3955
Naperville, IL 60567

To receive full consideration, all of the above information must be **post marked by March 1, 2017**. Any questions should be directed to James C. Jackson, Jr. at **630-508-7087** or email me at **secretary@diamond-youth.org**.

James C. Jackson, Jr.
Scholarship Committee Chairman