



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California

Little Moments. Big Magic.™

BIG DREAMS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation “Big Dreams” Scholarship is a special \$500 scholarship recognizing “Most Improved Student” for at least two high school seniors in Fresno County. This scholarship is the direct result of a policy recommendation from youth at a 2009 Youth Graduation Empowerment Summit, organized by The Center for Multicultural Cooperation. The scholarship is funded by the Jim and Lee Ann Briscoe Family Foundation.

The scholarship is intended for youth who had a grade point average of below a C (1.99 GPA or less) during their high school career, perhaps even expelled, but who have succeeded at bringing up their grades to at least a C (2.0 GPA) or better by the first semester of 12th grade. They have succeeded by remaining in school and deserve the recognition such effort deserves. **The scholarship scoring will look at percent improvement from the identified lowest GPA semester to the first semester of 12th grade**, regardless of the length of time or ups and downs along the way. The judges will also review improvement in attendance and, if there was a history of conduct referrals, improvement in that area as well. Any applicant that is a current or former Little Brother or Sister will receive one extra point in the scoring.

The scholarship is administered through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California. Any eligible student must submit an application to the Executive Director of the Agency no later than **Tuesday, June 30th** for the following fall semester. Awards will be announced in June or July.

ELIGIBILITY:

- ❖ Must have proof of a semester grade point average of BELOW 2.0 at some point between 9th and 11th grade
- ❖ Must have proof of first semester of 12th grade with a GPA at or above 2.0
- ❖ Must be able to provide proof of attendance (days missed) and any conduct referrals for the same semesters to show improvement
- ❖ Must be accepted to an accredited college, vocational, or trade school.
- ❖ Must carry at least 9 units
- ❖ Must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA each semester, as the scholarship is paid half each semester

SECTION C - - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

17. Student's present means of support: ___ Parents ___ Self ___ Other (specify) _____

Emancipated minor? ___ Yes ___ No

18. Student's employment status:

a. List paid work experience (Most recent experience first):

Company's Name	Type of Work	Avg. hrs/week	Dates of Employment

b. List volunteer work experience/community service activities (Most recent experience first):

Name	Type of Work	Avg. hrs/month	Dates of Experience

19. Do you plan to work while attending school? No ___ / Yes ___ Full time ___ Part time ___

20. Estimated educational and personal costs per semester:

- a. Tuition and fees \$ _____
- b. Books, supplies, etc. \$ _____
- c. Board/meals \$ _____
- d. Personal expenses (clothing, laundry, recreation, medical, etc.) \$ _____
- e. Transportation for school \$ _____
- f. Other (Please specify) _____ \$ _____
- Total annual expenses \$ _____

SECTION D - - SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Please answer each question in 50-100 words. (Attach additional pages if needed.)

21. What change occurred (whether inside you or in your environment) that allowed you to choose to do better in school? What made the difference in your success?

22. What are your future goals?

23. Please give a brief description of your family history and current living situation in order to explain your need for financial assistance to attend college or trade/vocational school.

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

I certify that I am in need of funds to continue my education. I will use all funds awarded toward tuition, fees, books, or essential materials at the school specified.

I understand and agree to the following statements:

- a) I will write a thank you letter by September 1st for Big Brothers Big Sisters to deliver to the donors.
- b) I must furnish Big Brothers Big Sisters with my registration schedule at the beginning of each semester in order to continue my scholarship award.
- c) I must furnish Big Brothers Big Sisters at the conclusion of each semester with an official report card (with GPA noted) by the institution in which I am enrolled. A GPA of at least 2.0 is required to maintain my scholarship for the second semester.
- d) I will submit verification of my full-time employment, if I am taking 9 units. If this information is not submitted in a timely manner, I understand that my scholarship check will be held until the agency receives this information. I also understand that submitting this paperwork is my responsibility, and not that of Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- e) I will keep Big Brothers Big Sisters advised of my current address, phone number, and email while attending college.
- f) I will notify Big Brothers Big Sisters if my school program is interrupted or terminated.

The information submitted is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I fully understand my responsibilities as detailed herein.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Statement by Parent or Guardian (if applicant is under age 18). *Not required if an emancipated minor.*

I have read this application, attest to the accuracy thereof, and understand that my child:

_____ is applying for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California BIG Dreams Scholarship funded by Valley Iron Inc.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send completed application and transcripts, attendance information provided by the school(s), and conduct referral information from the school(s) postmarked no later than June 30th to:

Big Dreams Scholarship
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California
905 N. Fulton
Fresno, CA 93728

Questions, contact 559-268-2447 or bfrost@bigs.org. Information also on the website www.bigs.org