



April 2, 2017

Thank you for your interest in an Acorn Equality Fund scholarship. Our scholarships are designed to provide academic financial support for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender students, allies or the children of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender parents. The 2017 scholarships range from \$1000 to \$5,000 with up to \$35,000 being disbursed.

To be eligible, the applicant must retain permanent residence in the AEF service area (all Illinois counties except: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will) and attend or plan to attend any accredited post-secondary educational facility.

Enclosed are the materials to complete to be considered for a scholarship. Please read all materials thoroughly and provide the information for all questions so the scholarship committee can provide scholarships to the most deserving candidates.

There are three types of scholarships awarded by the Acorn Equality Fund. You may apply for all types; however, you may only receive **one**.

You must complete separate applications to be considered for any of the three scholarships.

The **Luke Scholarship** is based on academic performance and need.

The **Acorn Scholarship** is based on academic performance, volunteerism, and community advocacy.

The **McKeon Scholarship** is based on academic performance, volunteerism and political advocacy.

Please note you will be completing two essays, your first essay will address either the Luke criteria, Acorn criteria, or McKeon criteria. The second essay, "About Me" is designed to give the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee a chance to get to know you better. It is your opportunity to express yourself. *If you are a past scholarship winner, and are applying again, please be sure your essays are new.* If you submit the same essay as in previous years, your application will not be considered.

Scholarship applicants will be notified about the status of their application in early November of 2017.

Congratulations on making the decision to apply for an Acorn Equality Fund scholarship. We are thrilled by your interest, and wish you the best of luck.

Best regards,

The Board of the Acorn Equality Fund



**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

*Please type or PRINT as legibly as possible (we can't contact you if we can't read your handwriting).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:     \_\_\_Female     \_\_\_Male     \_\_\_Transgender

Orientation:     \_\_\_Lesbian or Gay  
                      \_\_\_Bisexual  
                      \_\_\_Ally  
                      \_\_\_Child of a Lesbian or Gay Parent  
                      \_\_\_Child of a Bisexual Parent  
                      \_\_\_Child of a Transgender Parent  
                      \_\_\_\_\_ (self-define)

This application is for:     \_\_\_Acorn Scholarship  
  (Academics, Volunteerism and Advocacy)  
  
  \_\_\_Luke Scholarship  
  (Academics and Financial Need)  
  
  \_\_\_McKeon Scholarship  
  (Academics, Volunteerism and Political Advocacy)



**EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

Current Educational Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation (or expected date): \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra-Curricular Activities (Include volunteerism and advocacy):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post-Secondary Plans:

- GED
- Trade School/Technical School
- College (Undergraduate)
- College (Graduate School)
- Other Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission Status:

- Planning to Apply
- Applied
- Accepted
- Attending

If Attending:

- Class Status (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, etc.)
- Hours Completed
- GPA

Course of Study (planned or actual):

\_\_\_\_\_



**CONFIDENTIALITY/ETHICAL STATEMENT**

All documents received by the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee are considered **confidential**. However, some material is carefully selected from applications and letters of reference to prepare introductions of the recipients for an awards ceremony. In addition, we may use certain scholarship winners and their personal information to help attract attention and future applicants for the Acorn Equality Fund. If you are not comfortable with this, please be aware **it will NOT affect your eligibility** for a scholarship.

- 1. If chosen for this scholarship, I would like to serve as an advocate to promote the Acorn Equality Fund.             YES     NO
- 2. If chosen for this scholarship, the Acorn Equality Fund may make this information available to press members.             YES     NO
- 3. The Acorn Equality Fund may use my information in their promotional materials and future press releases.             YES     NO
- 4. The Acorn Equality Fund would appreciate you taking a moment to tell us how you came to know about the scholarship opportunities the fund has to offer. This will help us reach a wider audience for future applications.

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I hereby state that ALL of the information provided in my entire application is, to the best of my knowledge, truthful. I am aware that if the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee discovers that any of my materials are fraudulent or untruthful, I will be disqualified.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## REFERENCES

Please, select three references to provide letters of recommendation for you. References may be people who can testify to your academic success, your financial need, your commitment to community service, or even your personal virtues and qualities. Please enclose each of the three letters of reference with your application materials. **The reference MUST seal their letter in an envelope and sign their name across the flap of the envelope.** Your name needs to be on the FRONT of the envelope. Any letters of reference not sealed in a separate envelope with a signature across the envelope flap will not be considered with the application.

### Reference One

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reference Two

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reference Three

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_



## ESSAY QUESTIONS

This page includes the essay questions which must be completed and returned with your application. Each response should be typed or word processed on a separate sheet of paper and attached to your application materials. In the packet you return, you will have two (2) essays. Please label each essay, for example, one will be labeled Luke Scholarship and the other About Me.

*Please note: If you are a past scholarship winner, and are applying again, you must submit new essays. If you submit the same essay as in previous years, your application will not be considered.*

### **Luke Scholarship – Academics and Financial Need**

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe your educational success stories and the obstacles you have had to overcome in order to be successful. Also describe your financial need for upcoming educational expenses. How do you expect to cover the majority of your expenses?

### **Acorn Scholarship – Volunteerism and Community Advocacy**

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe your involvement in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Comment on community service, awards received, hours volunteered, and issues advocated.

### **McKeon Scholarship – Volunteerism and Political Advocacy**

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe your involvement in the political community. Comment on political issues advocated, awards received, hours volunteered, and your beliefs about the political process.

### **About Me**

*ALL NEW applicants must respond to one of following:*

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe how being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or allied has affected your life? (Or how has being the CHILD of a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or allied PARENT affected your life?)

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe where you see yourself in ten years. What will you be doing? How will you be using your talents to improve the quality of life for gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender people? What are your dreams for your life?

*ALL PREVIOUS scholarship recipients must respond to the following:*

In an essay no longer than 500 words, describe how your previous award(s) and involvement with Acorn Equality Fund has impacted your life.



## CHECKLIST

The following checklist will help guarantee that you include everything necessary in your application for you to be considered for an Acorn Equality Fund scholarship. Please, make sure you have completed **EVERYTHING** on the list and follow the instructions below for submitting your material to the Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_ Eligible County

(Please check to make sure your permanent address is in an eligible Illinois county. All Illinois counties are eligible except: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Biographical Information

\_\_\_\_\_ Educational History

\_\_\_\_\_ Confidentiality/Ethical Statement

\_\_\_\_\_ Two Essays

\_\_\_\_\_ Reference Page

\_\_\_\_\_ Letters of Recommendations from References

(Sealed in separate envelopes and signed across the flap)

\_\_\_\_\_ Official Transcripts

(From your high school, college, university, technical, or trade school, or a copy of your GED certificate)

All materials must be postmarked by **Friday, September 22, 2017**. Any application packets postmarked **after September 22, 2017** will not be considered.

Instructions for preparing and mailing your application:

- Please either legibly print, or type your application. (We can't contact you if we can't read your handwriting.)
- Please print out the application and essays in single sheets, printed on **one** side only.
- Do **NOT** staple your application together, please secure with a paper clip.
- Please mail all materials in **one** envelope to the following address:

**Acorn Equality Fund**  
**PO BOX 6286**  
**Peoria, Illinois 61601**

If you have any further questions, or would like help in completing your application, feel free to contact the Acorn Equality Fund at [acorn1999@gmail.com](mailto:acorn1999@gmail.com).