

## **2026 Alan R. Epstein 'Reach for the Stars' Scholarship Fund | Application Guidelines**

**Deadline: Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.**

**Notification of Award: April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Award Amount Range: \$1,000 to \$5,000 (Multi-Year Scholarship Opportunity)**

### **History**

The Epstein family established the Alan R. Epstein 'Reach for the Stars' Scholarship to honor the life of an outstanding young man who was tragically killed in an automobile accident. Scholarships are awarded to students who have endured extreme life challenges, and have displayed the character and courage to overcome such obstacles. Students are able to re-apply after their first year for a maximum of two years.

### **Submission + Deadline**

Applications must be submitted online by **Sunday, March 15<sup>h</sup> at 11:59 p.m.**

Applicants must submit an application via The Miami Foundation's scholarship application portal. To access the online portal, please visit The Miami Foundation's Scholarship page at [scholarships.miamifoundation.org](https://scholarships.miamifoundation.org) and carefully review the registration instructions.

If an application is missing information, our office will not inform the applicant nor review the application. Mailed or faxed applications will not be accepted.

If awarded, scholarship funds may be applied toward your institution's official cost of attendance.

### **Eligibility**

In order to qualify, applicants must:

- Be a current high school senior graduating from a Miami-Dade County high school in Spring 2026
- Be accepted to a college or university and present a copy of the acceptance letter(s) with this application

### **Selection Criteria**

A Scholarship Advisory Committee will review and rate the applications and make final decisions on scholarship awards. The following elements will be considered in evaluating applicants. Please review these guidelines carefully to see descriptions of each of these items:

- Alan R. Epstein 'Reach for the Stars' Scholarship Statement that describe circumstances related to your family's financial status
- Personal Statement Essay about personal obstacles and their positive impact on your life
- Volunteer/ Work Experience and School Activities
- Letter of Recommendation
- College Acceptance Letters
- Unofficial Transcript

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For questions about this worksheet contact [scholarships@miamifoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@miamifoundation.org)

This is a template of the application that shows the information you will need to submit online. Mailed, emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted. Use this as a worksheet to gather the information you will need to provide online. Go to [scholarships.miamifoundation.org](http://scholarships.miamifoundation.org) for further instructions on how to submit your application.

We recommend that you complete all questions that have character count limits in a word processing program first, paying careful attention to the character count limits - which include spaces - and then copy and paste your responses into the online application.

**Personal and School Information:**

Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:	
Date of Birth:			Gender:		
Address:					
Preferred Phone Number:					
Email Address:					
Name of High School currently attending:					
College or university you plan to attend for the upcoming school year:					
Major you are pursuing:					

**Academic Information:**

High School Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Weighted High School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Unweighted High School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family + Financial Information:**

**Father's Information** (please check \_\_\_\_\_ if deceased)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Information** (please check \_\_\_\_\_ if deceased)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Guardian's Information** (if applicable)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Siblings**

Name	Age	Educational Background/College	Occupation
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Please provide your family's estimated combined annual income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Household Size: Adults (18 and over) \_\_\_\_\_ Children (under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of household members who will be enrolled in higher education (at least part time – 6 credits) in fall 2026, including yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Questions: (The character limits include spaces)**

- 1. Alan R. Epstein 'Reach for the Stars' Scholarship Statement and 2-minute Video (1,500 character limit):** Describe any circumstances related to your family's financial status which would give the scholarship committee a better understanding of the importance of the Alan R. Epstein 'Reach for the Stars' Scholarship.
- 2. School and Volunteer Activities (1,000 character limit):** Please describe (in chronological order on separate lines) any school activities and volunteer service activities you have been involved in while attending high school.
- 3. Work Experience (750 character limit):** Please describe (in chronological order on separate lines) any work experience you have had while attending high school.

**Required attachments to be uploaded:**

- **Personal Statement Essay:** Please submit a personal statement of no more than 2 typed pages describing extreme hardship(s) you have endured in your life (such as loss of a loved one, a disability or illness, issues at home, or other personal challenges) how you have dealt with these obstacles paying particular attention to how these experiences have made you more resilient.
- **Letter of Recommendation (1):** On letterhead stationery, please submit **one** letter of recommendation from a teacher/faculty member who has been involved in your high school education or from a member of the community whom you have worked with. Please include the nature and quality of the applicant's academic work, intellectual depth or breadth, character, and personal qualities. Do not send the letter separately. **You will need to upload the letter as a PDF document.**
- **College Acceptance Letter:** Upload the acceptance letter of the college or university you plan to attend.
- **Unofficial High School Transcript:** Please upload your transcript **as a single PDF**. Do not send the transcript separately.

**Other:** How did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

**Permissions:**

- I give permission to have my essays published. Yes / No
- I give permission to have my essay published, but want my name to be anonymous. Yes / No

**Certifications: In submitting the online application, you certify the following:**

1. **Financial Aid Displacement:** I understand that an award at this time may affect the financial aid package provided by my college or university. I certify that I have consulted with my school's Financial Aid Office to gather any pertinent information to ensure that if I were to receive an award it would not reduce the amount my school would contribute under its aid package.

2. I certify that all the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by any authorized official of The Miami Foundation, I agree to give documentation for information given on this form. I realize that this proof may include a copy of a U.S. tax return. I realize that failure to comply with a request for further information may prevent the applicant from being considered. I understand that the financial information will be confidential, for review solely by The Miami Foundation and the selection committee.