



Sara's Scholarship

2024 Application Guidelines

Applications accepted: January 17- March 7, 2024

Sara's Scholarship is an investment in a teen's connection to the outdoors. This award enables an immersive outdoor experience for a rising high school sophomore that sparks personal growth and a sense of belonging in the natural world. Winners select an expedition offered by Maine's best trip-leading organizations. These trips can last a week or two and expose students to beautiful parts of Maine, useful outdoor skills, and even career possibilities.

Eligibility

- Any rising sophomore (current freshman) student at a high school who is currently registered with Teens to Trails. Scroll to the bottom of [this page](#) for an updated list of our registered 2023-24 outdoor clubs.
 - Teens to Trails deeply values diversity. We honor the differences among us and believe that we all belong outdoors. When we make the benefits of outdoor experiences accessible to everyone everywhere, we build stronger connections and communities. No prior experience is required. We will help provide all necessary clothing, gear, and equipment.
 - The awarded experience must be completed before the start of the next academic year, assumed to be September.
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2024 Application Timeline

January 17	Application period opens. Scholarship applications can be submitted.
March 7	Application due by midnight.
March 20	Grant awardees notified

How to Apply

1. Read through the trip options and identify which experience you would like to apply for.
 2. Read through the scholarship guidelines thoroughly.
 3. Ask a teacher for a recommendation and give them the information to submit the recommendation listed on the Sara's Scholarship webpage.
 4. Read through the application form and draft responses in a separate document.
 5. Apply for the scholarship through the application form
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Evaluation Process

We evaluate applications based on the following suggested criteria:

1. The student is self-motivated and expresses curiosity, integrity, intelligence, and willingness to take risks.
 2. The student is committed to being a positive contributing group member and shows a genuine interest in participating, understanding that means full participation and completion of the experience.
 3. The student is interested in grasping a broader sense of responsibility and understanding of the outdoors and is interested in acquiring greater self-confidence, technical and leadership skills.
 4. The student shows commitment to equitable access to the outdoors, ensuring that all feel welcome, included and a sense of belonging.
 5. The student shows potential to bring these qualities back to their school, plan outings with other students, and be an inspiring champion for spending time outdoors.
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Reporting Schedule

Recipients of Sara's Scholarship are asked to share a written and illustrated story of their experience. This can be in one of many formats:

- Photo essay
- Public presentation
- Video
- Written story
- Poetry
- Other (we're open to creative suggestions)

Teens to Trails has the right to use these reports to promote the scholarship.

Final Scholarship Report Due: **August 31, 2024**

QUESTIONS? Email Samantha Andrews, Program Manager at samantha@teenstotrails.org