



GUIDELINES FOR YOUTHLINC UTAH YOUNG HUMANITARIAN AWARD APPLICANTS

sponsored by George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation

Purpose of the Award

The Youthlinec Utah Young Humanitarian Award will recognize Utah students who are full-time juniors or seniors in high school, or undergraduate college or university students, who excel in their efforts to give back to their local Utah communities. This award gives recipients a platform to promote the value of service within the State of Utah.

Funding

One overall high school winner and one overall college winner of the Utah Young Humanitarian Award will each receive a \$7,500 award to be used for tuition or other expenses, for either undergraduate or graduate studies at a post-secondary institution.

One high school and one college runner up will each receive a \$4,000 award to be used for tuition or other expenses, for either undergraduate or graduate studies at a post-secondary institution.

Three high school students and three college students will each receive a \$1,500 award.

All award checks will be sent directly to the educational institution, not the student.

Definition of Service

For the purpose of this award, service is defined as unpaid volunteer efforts which contribute to the well being of needy individuals or communities. Such service is motivated primarily by selfless intent and desire to help others. Though there is value in brief service efforts with many different needy populations, sustained and focused service efforts will be considered more meaningful. Utah's Young Humanitarians are service leaders who undertake successful projects, while collaborating and working with others to achieve meaningful results.

In the spirit of this scholarship, we believe that the most impactful community service is built on collaboration and partnership. While many are drawn to the idea of creating new programs or nonprofits, some of the most meaningful contributions come from supporting and strengthening existing efforts. True leadership often lies in recognizing the value of established organizations and lending your skills, time, and resources to amplify their impact. By working alongside others, we can achieve lasting change and foster deeper connections within our communities. This scholarship celebrates students who have excelled in service by partnering with worthy causes, demonstrating that leadership is not always about starting something new, but about joining hands with others to make a difference.

Selection Process

All applications must be received by March 1, 2026. No late applications can be considered. No portion of the application can be returned.

Applications must be submitted on the Youthlinec website www.youthlinec.org/yha

A Scholarship Award Committee made up of Utah community leaders in the fields of education, business, politics, law, and community service will review the applications.

The ten top finalists will be notified by or before April 6, 2026 and will be asked to interview with a Scholarship Award Committee on Saturday, April 25, 2026. **If the applicant is not available to interview in-person, or is unable to attend the Scholarship Celebration, they are ineligible to be considered for the Award and another candidate will be selected. No virtual interviews will be authorized.**

The Scholarship Award Committee will select the overall winner on Saturday, April 25th, 2026 and winners will be notified by May 1st, 2026.

The overall winners will be recognized at a Scholarship Celebration on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026. All winners will also be invited to attend the Annual Youthlinec Benefit on Saturday, August 29, 2026. Two additional tickets will be provided to each finalist.

Any 2026 finalist who will be attending the University of Utah in Fall 2026 will receive additional funding from the University Union Scholarship Fund. The University of Utah reserves the right to determine the additional amount of scholarship monies awarded.

Criteria for Awarding scholarships

Applicants must be current students in Utah, who intend to pursue higher education at a post-secondary institution. Top applicants must reside in Utah for the year following their award to meet the ambassador requirements. Eligible applicants must be either juniors or seniors in a Utah high school or full-time undergraduates enrolled in a college or university in Utah. Graduate students are not eligible for this award, although college seniors are permitted to apply if they will be attending graduate school in Utah the following year. Transcripts are requested solely to confirm enrollment and grades will not be included in the materials given to Award judges. Please note that the Utah Young Humanitarian Award recognizes dedication to service, not Grade Point Average (GPA).

Applicants must not be over the age of 25 years by March 1st, 2026.

To be considered for the Utah Young Humanitarian Award, applicants must submit all components of the application—including the two essay questions, two letters of recommendation, and completed application form—before the deadline. Evaluation will focus on the quality of essays and letters of recommendation, with a primary emphasis on demonstrated, sustained, and focused service efforts benefiting individuals or communities in need. Ideal candidates will exhibit strong leadership skills, a history of consistent service, hands-on involvement, self-motivation, collaboration with others, and a tangible, positive impact within Utah.

No family member of the Scholarship Award Committee is eligible to apply for this Award.

Ambassadorship

The Utah Young Humanitarian Award scholarship requires the top winners to serve as Youthlinec Utah Young Humanitarian ambassadors for one year, representing the organization and the values of service it promotes. As part of this ambassadorship, recipients will attend at least three engagements arranged by the Young Humanitarian Award Director, where they will share their experiences, inspire others, and promote Youthlinec's mission of creating lifetime humanitarians. Engagements include, but are not limited to: Youthlinec Annual Benefit, Utah Global Diplomacy's Youth Summit, and My Impact Challenge. In addition, they will act as representatives for Youthlinec and the scholarship program, helping to spread awareness about the impact of sustained, meaningful service and encouraging others to participate in community-focused efforts.

Top scholarship recipients must reside primarily in Utah for one year after receiving the award.

Publicity

The top ten finalists for the Youthlinec Utah Young Humanitarian Award will be highlighted in a slideshow or video presentation at the Scholarship Banquet on May 13th, 2026. Finalists will need to provide headshots and photos of their service activities, and they may be asked to participate in pre-event photography, videotaped interviews, and to assist with arranging interviews with colleagues, supervisors, or other individuals involved in their service.

Top finalists may also be featured in local television and newspaper stories. Any information provided by applicants or their recommenders may be used in press releases. All applicants must be willing to participate in related media coverage, and Youthlinec reserves the right to use any submitted information to promote the Young Humanitarian Award.

Award Distribution

Checks for the awards will be written to the college or university of the award recipient's choice. Checks will not be written or given to the student.

Award recipients must supply Youthlinec with the name and contact information of the appropriate person at their chosen college or university as soon as possible and no later than three months after receipt of the award. Failure to do so may result in a retraction of award monies.

A letter will be written to the college or university explaining the Award and explaining that if money remains when the student is no longer attending the institution, no refund of any kind can be made to the student. Students who receive the Utah Young Humanitarian Award agree to request no refund of award money, should they leave the educational institution.

Falsification of any part of the application is grounds for immediate retraction of any award amount received. If any part of the application is found to be falsified, the recipient agrees to return the award in full. If the award has been applied to tuition fees, the recipient agrees to return the award money with their own funds.

Scholarship monies must be used by the recipient for the purposes of a college education within three years of the award notification. Youthlinec does not agree to hold award monies for a recipient after three years.

Please direct all questions to yha@youthlinec.org or call 801-467-4417