



EL SOL FOUNDATION
INVESTING IN EXCELLENCE

Application for El Sol Foundation American Dream Scholarship

The El Sol Foundation has initiated the American Dream Opportunity Scholarship Program. It supports high school students who have been accepted and have agreed to attend a four-year university or college. The American Dream Scholarship will provide gap funding; that is, colleges costs that are not funded by student receipt of gifts, grants and family resources.

Scholarship Threshold Requirements

- Completed 8th grade at El Sol Science and Arts Academy in 2017
- Eligible to participate in the free and reduced lunch program or if in a private or charter school meets family or individual income requirements similar in kind to the eligibility for the free and reduced lunch program.
- Formal Acceptance letter from College or University and Student Agreement to attend such college or university

Scholarship Review Criteria

- Academic Track Record (2.7 or above GPA average), leadership qualities in high school, community service achievements

Application Materials

- **Completed Application Form**
- **Essays**
- **Letters of Reference (2)**
- **Release of Information Form**
- **High School Transcript**
- **College Admissions Confirmation and Acceptance**

Selection

Student applicants who meet threshold requirements will be selected for scholarships on the basis of El Sol Foundation review of **academic merit** (2.7 GPA or higher), **leadership qualities and community service achievements** during their four years in high school. All finalists will be asked to participate in an interview with El Sol Foundation Board members before Board selection.

Deadline

Please submit your application by May 21, 2021 COB. Notification of Foundation decisions will be emailed to students on or before June 11, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Marshall Kaplan, El Sol Foundation Board Member and Executive Director at (949) 689-5003, mkaplan@pathopps.org. You can also contact Kayla Daviss, Administrative Assistant, kdaviss@elsolacademy.org



Application

We are pleased to provide you with the El Sol American Dream Opportunity Scholarship Application. If you are interested in being considered for the American Dream Scholarship, we request that you complete the attached application and submit required materials:

- **Completed Application Form** (attached)
- **High School Transcript**
- **Essays (2)**
 - Essay 1: The first essay should briefly describe your background and American Dreams for your future. You should also identify the two or three people who have influenced you the most up to the present time (and why).
 - Essay 2: The second essay should describe what you believe you will gain from a college education in terms of your future career.Each essay should not exceed 650 words.
- **Letters of Reference (2)**
 - Each applicant is asked to submit two letters of reference. At least one of the letters should be from a high school teacher in one of the applicant's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) classes. The other letter may be from a non-STEAM teacher (eg. history, civics) or a community leader who is knowledgeable about the applicant's community service.
- **Release of Information Form**
 - The Release of Information Form will permit the El Sol Foundation to secure your income eligibility (defined by free and reduced lunch criteria) and GPA as well as transcripts from your high school. Please include it as an attachment to your application. **The materials you send to us and those we secure from your school will only be used to determine your eligibility to compete for the El Sol American Dream Opportunity Scholarship Award.** The waiver will not affect your eligibility to participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Students and their parent/guardian should complete the yellow highlighted areas of the form before asking a high school counselor, administrator, or registrar to complete the blue portion. *Please allow for at least 1 week processing time at your school site OR because of pandemic in the home of relevant school staff.*
- **College Admissions Confirmation**
 - Please attach a copy of your acceptance letter from the College or University and proof of your intent to register or proof of registration deposit paid/waived printed from your student portal from your intended College/University.

Submit the completed application and all application materials and documents to at the Administrative Office located at 328 W. Halesworth St. Santa Ana, CA 92701 **or** scan and submit electronically to kdaviss@elsolacademy.org by May 21, 2021, COB.



I. Student Contact Information

Student Name First, Last	
Mailing Address Street Address, City, State, Zip Code	
Contact Numbers	Home: (_____) _____ - _____ Cell: (_____) _____ - _____
Email Address	
Statewide Student ID Number Students this is the State ID on the bottom of your transcript	

II. Educational Background

El Sol Academy Graduation Year	
High School Name	
High School Counselor's Name First, Last	
High School Counselor's Email	
High School Counselor's Phone Number	

III. College or University Acceptance

Have you been accepted to a four-year college or university? If you have been accepted, have you formally indicated your intent to attend such college or university (provide letter or receipts/waiver of registration costs etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I've been accepted and am attaching proof of intent to attend such college or university.
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IV. Attachments

Please include the following application materials and documents with your application:

Essay 1	Essay 2	Letter of Reference 1 (STEM Teacher)	Letter of Reference 2 (Teacher/ Community Leader)	High School Transcript	Release of Information Form	College Admissions Confirmation and intent to attend documents
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

V. Student Signature

I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure all application materials are submitted by May 21, 2021, COB

Student Signature: _____

VI. Submit the completed application and application materials and signed Release of Information Form below and send to Ms. Kayla Daviss, Administrative Assistant at the administrative offices at El Sol Science and Arts Academy or scan and submit electronically via email to at kdaviss@elsolacademy.org before May 21, 2021 COB



Release of Information Form

This form should be attached to the application. It is intended to gather information required to determine high school students meet the eligibility requirements for free and reduced lunch and GPA criteria for the El Sol Foundation American Dream Opportunity Scholarship. Parent consent as indicated in section one of this form, will permit SAUSD for high schools within the district as well as administrative/staff from high schools not in district to provide information to the El Sol Foundation regarding student eligibility for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program and GPA/ .

Authorization

I, *(parent/guardian name)* [redacted] authorize administrative/staff from Santa Ana Unified School District or administrative/staff from High Schools not in the Santa Ana Unified School District to disclose my child's *(student's name)* [redacted], Federal Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility status, GPA and transcript, for the sole purpose of determining his/her eligibility for the El Sol Foundation American Dream Opportunity Scholarship.

This authorization covers the period from submittal of application through August 15, 2021. The information will not be used to determine eligibility for benefits under the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and it will have no effect on your child's participation in this program. It will also be used to secure your child's transcript and GPA for sole purpose related to application review process.

I acknowledge that information provided El Sol Science and Arts Academy will be used solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for the El Sol Foundation American Dream Opportunity Scholarship and will not be used for any other purpose or given to any other organization.

High School: [redacted]
Name of Student: [redacted]
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian(s): [redacted] Date: [redacted]

Student – After you and your parent/guardian complete the yellow sections above please bring this form to your school counselor, an administrator, or registrar for completion. Students are responsible for making sure the form is submitted with their completed application.

(This section to be completed by the student's school staff)

Dear High School Staff,

Your student is applying for the El Sol Foundation American Dream Opportunity Scholarship. Please review and complete the blue areas below and return this form to the student with an attached high school transcript.

Application materials, including this form are due by May 21, 2021.

Free and Reduced Meal Program Eligibility Status:

Is the student named above currently eligible for Federal Free and Reduced Meal Program participation?

Yes No

Academic Criteria: Student High School Overall Weighted GPA is [redacted].

Transcript: Please include a high school transcript for the students named above.

Did you attach the most recent version of the student's transcript? Yes No

Name of Authorized Administrator/Staff: [redacted]
Role/Job Title: [redacted]
Signature of Authorized Administrator/Staff: [redacted] Date: [redacted]