

Scholarship Opportunity

Application Deadline: February 14, 2020 by 5:00 PM

December 2019

The Red Pine Scholars Program is seeking its next class of students from low- to middle-income families in Massachusetts who have demonstrated academic excellence and are planning to attend competitive undergraduate colleges as freshmen in the fall of 2020. This program is designed to support students through tuition assistance, mentoring, and other flexible financial supports. The Red Pine Scholars Program is dedicated to making college affordable for Massachusetts families and helping students to reach their full potential. The program is funded by an anonymous donor and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI).

We seek your help in identifying eligible students to apply. We invite you to share the enclosed guidelines with students who will be entering college in fall 2020 and who meet the program criteria.

While many students are deserving of this type of support during college, to be eligible for this program students must:

- 1) come from **low- to middle- income families**
- 2) have a **strong academic record** or have shown **significant improvement** over time
- 3) be planning to enroll as a freshman at a **competitive four-year college** in fall 2020

A copy of the Red Pine Scholarship guidelines is enclosed. Applications will be processed online – hard copies will not be accepted. For more information and application instructions, go to:

<http://www.tpi.org/scholarship/red-pine-scholars-program>

Applications must be completed online by February 14, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Please direct any questions to Sydney Giacalone at redpine@tpi.org or 617-338-5895.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,



Leslie Pine

Managing Partner
The Philanthropic Initiative

About

The Red Pine Scholarship is seeking its next class of students from low- to middle-income families in Massachusetts who have demonstrated academic excellence and are planning to attend competitive colleges as freshmen in the fall of 2020. This program is designed to support students through tuition assistance, mentoring, and other flexible financial supports. The Red Pine Scholars Program is dedicated to making college affordable for Massachusetts families and helping students reach their full potential. The program is funded by an anonymous donor and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI). In addition to the eligibility criteria listed in the checklist below, selection criteria is based on the following key components:

- Student's college choice will allow them to accomplish career goals and achieve financial stability
- Student faces challenging financial circumstances
- Student demonstrates strong character and ability to positively contribute to the Red Pine Scholars community

Program Components

Scholarship: A four-year, renewable scholarship to a competitive four-year undergraduate college in the U.S. Scholarships will remain the same year-to-year unless appealed by the student.

Advising: Each student is paired with an adult mentor to provide advice and assistance navigating the college experience.

Flexible Funds: Additional funds are available to students to support enriching experiences that help students achieve their academic goals or to assist with expenses related to unforeseen circumstances.

Eligibility Checklist

Residency

- U.S. citizens or non-citizens who are eligible to receive federal financial aid. DACA students who submit a completed FAFSA Student Aid Report will also be considered.
- Permanent resident of Massachusetts

Financial circumstances

- Adjusted gross family income (AGI) of \$80,000 or less (as shown on your most recent tax returns)
- Substantial unmet need (at least \$5,000) as determined by college financial aid award letter (you will likely not know this at time of application)

Academic

- Senior at accredited high school in Massachusetts
- Enrolling as a full-time freshman at a competitive four-year college in the U.S. in fall 2020 to pursue a Bachelor's degree
- Strong academic record (enrolled in a demanding, college-prep course of study)

Personal

- Involved in a balance of community, school, and work activities
- Ability to articulate goals and future plans

Process & Timeline

February 14, 2020 by 5:00 pm	Application Deadline
Late March, Early April:	Semi-finalist interviews
April:	Students are selected and TPI works with college financial aid offices to determine unmet need and scholarship amounts
<i>Note: Students may submit financial aid award letters from all schools they are considering. Red Pine Scholarship amounts will be determined for each school, allowing recipients to use the information to help them make their final school choice. If a student's unmet need does not exceed \$5,000, they will not be selected as a recipient.</i>	
By April 30:	Red Pine Scholarship recipients finalized and decisions announced via email
Mid-August:	Fall semester tuition checks mailed to schools

Instructions

Completed applications are due **February 14, 2020 by 5:00 PM**. Only complete applications submitted online will be reviewed. Please follow instructions carefully. Applicants' ability to follow instruction will weigh into award decisions.

To access the application, click here:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/tpischolarship/Common/LogOn.aspx>

This scholarship application process may seem daunting, but with the potential to receive up to \$80,000 in college tuition and other benefits over four years, the rewards are well worth the diligent work required to complete the application.

1. Prior to completing the application, please be sure you meet all **eligibility requirements** (academic and financial). Ineligible applications will not be reviewed.
2. **Review Application:** Please review the questions and required attachments in advance to be sure you have access to all the information you will need to complete the application. You can review the full application by clicking on the "Question Packet" button at the top right-hand corner of the application page (link above).
3. **Required Documents:** Instructions on how to submit required attachments are included in the application (options include scanning & uploading the documents or using a fax-to-file feature).
4. **Recommendations:** Make sure you give your recommenders ample time to complete the recommendations. Your two recommenders must upload their recommendation letters and complete short forms within the online application. Instructions on how to do this are included in the application. Be sure you and your recommenders understand how to upload their letters. Only applications with two completed recommendations will be reviewed. Please note: if you finish your application early, you may submit it before your recommenders have uploaded their materials; however, it is your responsibility to follow up with them to make sure they submit letters and forms by the deadline. Applications without two completed recommendations will not be considered.
5. If you have **questions**, contact Sydney Giacalone at redpine@tpi.org or 617-338-5895.

Required Documents

The following materials are required for the scholarship committee to evaluate each student. Only complete applications submitted online will be considered.

1. **Complete Online Application Form**
2. **Extracurricular & Community Activities Form** – applicants will need to enter information about the places they've worked, community service, and leadership activities as part of the online application. Applicants also have the option of uploading their resume.
3. **Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Letter** - to be written and uploaded by a teacher or guidance counselor; the online application will also include questions about the students' transcript and SAT/ACT scores. Applicants will have to enter their recommender's email address into the application field in order for the recommender to submit their letter.
4. **General Recommendation Letter** -- to be written and uploaded by a teacher, work supervisor, community leader, coach, or any other non-family member who knows you well. Applicants will have to enter the email address for their recommender into the application field in order for the recommender to submit their letter.
5. **Essays** – One long and two short. Essay questions are located within the online application form and may be found on our website. There is no perfect essay response. The essays are an opportunity for us to understand your interests, values, and personality. Please be honest about your experiences, thoughts and feelings.
6. **High school transcript**
7. Pages 1 and 2 of parent(s)' or guardian(s)' 2018 or most recent **IRS 1040 tax forms**. To access your tax forms:
 - a Contact your tax preparer.
 - b Request it from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by doing one of the following:
 - i Online: visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>. Click "Get a Transcript" and follow the steps to get a transcript online or by mail.
 - ii By Phone: call 1-800-908-9946 and follow the prompts.
8. Complete **Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA**. This document will be approximately five pages long. You must submit the ENTIRE SAR document. **Please note:** You will be asked to enter your "Adjusted Gross income (AGI)" into your application. If you do not have access to this figure in your FAFSA SAR, you can find it on line 7 of your 1040 tax form. If your family uses another version of the 1040 form, you can figure out how to find your AGI here: <https://turbotax.intuit.com/tax-tips/irs-tax-return/how-to-find-your-adjusted-gross-income-agi-to-e-file-your-tax-return/L2BNspAbm> -

File your FAFSA as early as possible online. Your Expected Family Contribution is the amount, determined by the federal government, that you and your family should be able to contribute to you college education annually. Schools use this figure and [other financial information](#) to determine what kind of award and loan amounts you will receive. The FAFSA website is www.fafsa.ed.gov. Additional resources about the FAFSA can be found here: <https://www.mefa.org/financial-aid-applications/>