

Guadalupe A. Reyes Fiesta del Sol Scholarship 2024/2025

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
MAY 1ST, 2024
BY 5PM**



Pilsen Neighbors Community Council's (PNCC) University Round Table

Email: info@pilsenneighbors.org

Website: fiestadelsol.org/scholarship

Tel: [312] 666-2663

2026 S Blue Island Ave, Chicago IL, 60608

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND _____	3
ELIGIBILITY _____	3
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS _____	4
PERSONAL STATEMENT _____	6
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION _____	6
NUMBER OF AWARDS AND AWARD AMOUNT _____	7
SCHOLARSHIP DISBURSEMENT _____	7
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES _____	7

FIESTA DEL SOL SCHOLARSHIP 2024-2025

Background

PNCC strives to offer students an opportunity to exercise leadership skills, learn relationship building, and teamwork by participating in the Fiesta del Sol planning.

The Guadalupe A. Reyes Fiesta del Sol Scholarship Program has awarded scholarships for over two decades to students from the Southwest side of Chicago.

The mission of the University Round Table (URT) is to provide necessary resources for underrepresented students and their families with a focus on successful recruitment, college access, affordability, retention, and college completion. The URT is comprised of representatives from institutions of postsecondary education and college-access advocates in the Chicago metropolitan area and greater Illinois.

The URT encourages first time college students and undergraduates to apply for this 2024/25 school year scholarship regardless of their immigration status.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the FDS scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be of Latino/Hispanic descent
- Be currently enrolled or have plans to enroll in an accredited college or university in an undergraduate degree or certificate program for a minimum of 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4-point scale or its equivalent.

And one of the following:

- Live on the southwest side of Chicago within the following boundaries: Between 16th and 79th streets, and between Cicero Ave. (4800 West) and Canal (500 West)

or

- Be a volunteer in a Fiesta del Sol committee (Contact us for volunteer opportunities).

or

- Be sponsored by a member institution of Gamaliel of Metro Chicago

or

- Be sponsored by a member institution of the University Round Table

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Online Application:

PART 1

- Your contact information
- Your current school
- The school you are planning to enroll for the 2024-2025 academic year
- Admissions status to the school you'll be attending
- Completed quarter or semester hours anticipated during the scholarship period
- Anticipated cost of tuition for the 2024/2025 school year
- Anticipated tuition covered by other financial aid

PART 2

Letters of Recommendation

- Two letters of recommendation from individuals you have worked with in your school or community service. One letter must be from a school official. Both letters must be on official letterhead. Any additional letters of recommendation will not be reviewed.

Transcripts

- Official school transcript
- High school students must submit most recent transcripts.
- College students submit college/university transcripts. College applicants with fewer than 30 credits must also submit their high school transcripts.

Personal Statement

- A personal statement, typed 500-750 words.
- See the next section for instructions and topics.

Resume

- Updated resume that includes:
 - Work experience, if applicable
 - Service learning/community service
 - Extracurricular activities

Upload all Documents [HERE](#)

Applications that do not include all of the above will not be considered for review by the selection committee. Applications must be submitted by 5pm May 1st 2024.

PART 3 (For Scholarship Awardees)

Volunteer Hours - Due August 17th

- All Scholarship awardees must complete a minimum of 20 volunteer hours with Pilsen Neighbors
- At least half (10 hours) must be during the annual Fiesta del Sol Festival (July 24 - July 29)
- All volunteer hours must be completed and signed off by PNCC staff by no later than 5pm on August 17th.

Thank You Letter - Due July 11th

Must include:

- Name
- School
- Major/Program of study
- How the scholarship impacted your studies
- Addressed to the FDS Scholarship donors

Mail to/Drop-off at:

URT Scholarship Committee
Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
2026 S Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608

FDS Opening Reception [TBA]

- All scholars are expected to attend the annual Fiesta del Sol opening reception to accept their award.

Scholarship awardees that do not complete all of the above by their respective deadlines will not be awarded their scholarship. Checks will be mailed to institutions only after ALL requirements have been fulfilled.

Personal Statement

This is an essay that is a critical component of your application. It is vital that you address each of the following topics in order for your application to be considered. (500-750 words)

This is an essay that is a critical component of your application. It is vital that you address each of the following topics in order for your application to be considered:

- Tell us about your background, family, personal
- What is your chosen area of study? What are your personal and career goals?
- Tell us about your unpaid (volunteer) community or school service or your involvement in extracurricular activities?
- How have you demonstrated your leadership skills in your volunteer work or in your extracurricular activities?
- Tell us about challenges you and your family may experience to pay for college endeavors?

PLEASE BE SURE TO WRITE ABOUT THE FIVE TOPICS IN THE ORDER PRESENTED ABOVE . THIS IS TO HELP YOU CREATE A SOLID , COHESIVE ESSAY .

Important information about Selection and Notification

First the University Round Table and Fiesta del Sol Committee will review all application materials and will select students for the interviews round. The interviews will take place on a rolling basis, dates to be determined. Candidates will be interviewed by members of the University Round Table and Fiesta del Sol Committee and must submit verification of enrollment as well as unofficial school transcripts on the day of the interview. Finalists will be asked to submit supplement documentation. Awardees will be notified by July 2024 and will be recognized at the Fiesta del Sol's Awards Ceremony during opening reception.

Supplement Documentation for Finalists

- Copy of the 2024/2025 award letter from your college's financial aid office.
- Small bio and picture of student for the Fiesta del Sol's Awards Ceremony.

Number of awards and award amount

The amount awarded for each scholarship is \$1500 for their tuition expenses. The number of awards may vary from year to year and depends on the number of scholarship sponsors.

Scholarship Disbursement

Scholarships are intended to cover tuition expenses ONLY. If your entire tuition expense is already covered by other sources of financial aid, your award will be held until your tuition expenses increase, or until the start of the following school year. The scholarship checks are made to the university/college in which the student will be attending and will be mailed directly to the institution.

Additional Opportunities

We encourage all Fiesta del Scholarship recipients to become part of the PNCC/Fiesta del Sol taskforces. To learn more about these opportunities and become the next community leader, please email us at info@pilsenneighbors.org