

Guadalupe A. Reyes Fiesta del Sol Scholarship 2025/2026

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, MAY 30TH, 2025**



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

Email: scholarship@fiestadelsol.org

Tel: [312] 666-2663

Website: fiestadelsol.org/scholarship

2026 S Blue Island Ave, Chicago IL, 60608

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FIESTA DEL SOL SCHOLARSHIP

BACKGROUND

For over two decades, the Guadalupe A. Reyes Fiesta del Sol Scholarship Program has supported students from Chicago's Southwest Side in pursuing higher education. The University Round Table (URT) is dedicated to equipping underrepresented students and their families with essential resources to navigate the college journey—focusing on recruitment, access, affordability, retention, and completion. Composed of representatives from postsecondary institutions and college-access advocates, the URT serves students across the Chicago metropolitan area and greater Illinois.

ELIGIBILITY

- Be of Latino/Hispanic descent.
- Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college or university in an undergraduate degree or certificate program, with a minimum of 6 semester hours or 8 quarter hours.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent).

Additionally, applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Reside on the Southwest Side of Chicago within the boundaries of 16th to 79th Street and Cicero Ave. (4800 West) to Canal (500 West).
- Serve as a volunteer on a Fiesta del Sol committee (Contact us for volunteer opportunities).
- Be sponsored by a member institution of Gamaliel of Metro Chicago.
- Be sponsored by a member institution of the University Round Table.

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

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicant Information

- Personal contact details
- Intended school information for this academic year
- Admission status for the school you plan to attend
- Completed or anticipated quarter/semester hours during the scholarship period
- Estimated tuition costs for the upcoming school year
- Expected financial aid coverage for tuition
- Additional details: High school/college name, program, first-time applicant or returning, year in school, first-generation student status

Supporting Documents

- **Letters of Recommendation**
Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with their academic performance or community service involvement. One letter must come from a school official, and both letters must be on official letterhead. Any additional letters beyond the required two will not be reviewed.
- **Transcripts**
An official school transcript is required. High school students must submit their most recent transcript, while college students must provide their college or university transcript.
- **Personal Statement**
Applicants must submit a 500-750 word typed personal statement. Specific instructions and essay topics can be found in the next section.
- **Resume**
A current resume must be included, detailing any work experience (if applicable), service learning or community service involvement, and participation in extracurricular activities.

Applications that do not include all of the above will not be considered for review by the selection committee. Applications must be submitted by May 30, 2025.

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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)

Tell us about your background, family, and personal challenges.

- 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?

Returning applicants must reflect on how receiving the scholarship has impacted their academics, discuss their educational and career goals, and explain how the scholarship has supported their journey.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Volunteer Hours – Due August 17th

All scholarship recipients must complete a minimum of 10 volunteer hours with Pilsen Neighbors Community Council (PNCC). At least 5 of these hours must be completed during the annual Fiesta del Sol Festival (July 30 - August 4). All volunteer hours must be completed and signed off by PNCC staff no later than August 17th. Please reach out to our team for questions or opportunities to volunteer.

Thank You Letter – Due July 11th

Recipients must submit a thank-you letter addressed to the FDS Scholarship donors. The letter must include:

- Name
- School
- Major/Program of study
- How the scholarship has impacted their studies

Please email all letters to: scholarship@fiestadelsol.org using Subject "Thank You Letter"

Fiesta del Sol Opening Reception & Award Ceremony - Evening of July 24th, 2025

All scholarship recipients are expected to attend the annual Fiesta del Sol Opening Reception to accept their award.

Scholarship recipients must complete all of the above requirements by their respective deadlines. Failure to meet these obligations will result in the forfeiture of the scholarship. Scholarship funds will only be mailed directly to the recipient's institution after all requirements have been fulfilled.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

The University Round Table and Fiesta del Sol Committee will review all submitted applications and select candidates for the interview round. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis, with dates to be determined.

Finalists will be asked to submit additional documentation, including:

A copy of the 2025/2026 award letter from the college's financial aid office.
A short bio and a photo to be featured during the Fiesta del Sol Awards Ceremony.

NUMBER OF AWARDS AND AWARD AMOUNT

Each scholarship award is valued at \$1,500 to assist with tuition expenses. The number of awards may vary annually, depending on the number of scholarship sponsors.

SCHOLARSHIP DISBURSEMENT

Scholarships are intended solely for tuition expenses. If the recipient's tuition is already fully covered by other financial aid sources, the scholarship will be held until tuition costs increase or until the start of the following school year. Scholarship checks are made payable to the university/college the recipient will attend and are mailed directly to the institution.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

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