



MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org

KELSIE KARPIAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDE

This guide provides applicants with detailed information and instructions to help guide them through the [Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship](http://www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org) application process.

ABOUT THE KELSIE KARPIAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The [Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship](http://www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org) honors the legacy of Kelsie Karpiak (1990-2014) who was tragically killed in a boating accident. Kelsie's family and friends remember her as a beautiful girl with a kind and loving "heart of gold" and a life-long passion for dance. She was co-captain of her high school's dance team and captain of the junior varsity cheerleading squad. Kelsie's dance teachers remember her as an "Outstanding Dancer" who was "a joy to work with". At the time of her passing, Kelsie had completed college and was serving as President of the American Dance Alliance. She was developing a low-cost dance program for underprivileged children and a scholarship program for dancers.

The [Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship Foundation](http://www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org) honors her legacy by awarding post-secondary education scholarships to high school seniors who are members of the school's dance team – like Kelsie! Since 2018, over \$38,000 in scholarships have been awarded!

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet ALL 4 scholarship requirements:

1. ATTEND A MIAMI-DADE SENIOR SCHOOL: Applicants must be registered at a Miami-Dade senior school and be able to provide their transcript as evidence.
2. BE A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR: Applicants must be registered in their final/senior year in high school and be able to provide their transcript as evidence.
3. BE A DANCE TEAM MEMBER: Applicants must be active members of their high school's dance team or dance company.
4. BE ADMITTED INTO A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM: Applicants must be admitted into a degree-seeking program at an accredited 4-year university or 2-year college. Other post-secondary programs may also be considered. Recipients must submit proof of registration before funds are released.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit 3 documents before the April 5th deadline. Instructions follow.

REQUIRED DOCUMENT CHECKLIST	COMPLETE?
1. Online application	Y / N
2. Reference letter from a teacher/coach	Y / N
3. Reference letter from a friend	Y / N



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APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to apply is **March 30th of the applicant's senior year**. All application requirements must be submitted by this date.

ONLINE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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- ✓ Review the application questions found in this Application Guide (next page).
- ✓ We suggest that you prepare your answers beforehand.
- ✓ When you are ready, open the [ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#).
- ✓ Answer a few simple questions about yourself then paste your long answers into the online application.
- ✓ Review your application for errors, accuracy, and completion.
- ✓ Click NEXT to SUBMIT your online application.
- ✓ A copy of your responses will be emailed to you. We recommend saving the file.

REFERENCE LETTER INSTRUCTIONS

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- ✓ Two letters of reference must be submitted – one from a teacher or coach and a second from a friend or teammate.
- ✓ Provide your reference with the link to the website so they can learn more about the scholarship and its requirements: www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org/scholarship.
- ✓ Provide them with the instructions below and notify them of the April 5th deadline.
- ✓ As an option to help your references, consider sharing your resume, transcript, or a statement about why you should be awarded a Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship.

Reference from Teacher or Coach

- Ask a teacher or coach for a letter that confirms your dance team membership and speaks to your educational achievements, goals, community service, and personal values.
- Instruct them to email the letter to KelsieKarpiakFoundation@gmail.com with the subject line 'Reference Letter – Applicant's Name'
- Ask your reference to send you a copy of their letter.
- If you prefer, you may submit the reference letter to us by email.

Reference from a Friend or Teammate

- This letter should come from a friend or teammate who knows you well and can write about your values, goals, and relationships with your peers and community.
- Instruct them to email the letter to KelsieKarpiakFoundation@gmail.com with the subject line "Reference Letter – Applicant's Name".
- If you prefer, you may submit the reference letter to us by email.



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ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION LINK

The [ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#) can be accessed [HERE](#).

You may cut and paste the link into your browser: <https://forms.gle/NeLCD8Fz5oNygDTZ9>.

ONLINE APPLICATION LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

The online application contains 21 questions of which 9 are long answer questions. We suggest you prepare your answers in advance. Take care to follow the instructions.

QUESTIONS		INSTRUCTIONS
11.	What high school clubs/teams have you participated in and for how long?	List each on a separate line as follows: Club/Team name, position (if applicable), # of years
12.	What academic achievements, honors, and awards would you like to share?	Please list each on a separate line as follows: Name of achievement, who awarded it, year(s) it was awarded.
13.	How has being a member of the high school dance team helped you grow as a person?	Paragraph format. 250-400 words
16.	How will the Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship (\$2000) help you meet your postsecondary financial needs and goals?	Paragraph format. No word limit.
17.	What is your greatest character trait/strength?	Paragraph format. 250 words max.
18.	What has been your most significant accomplishment?	Paragraph format. 250 words max.
19.	Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?	Paragraph format. 250 words max.
20.	Why should you receive the Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship?	Paragraph format. 250 words max.
21.	What else would you like us to know about you? <i>For example, you might share your dreams, professional goals, personal aspirations, voluntary service, and/or any challenges or circumstances that help us to understand more about you.</i>	Paragraph format. 500 words max.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can apply for the Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship?

Students may apply if they are graduating seniors at a Miami-Dade County Public School and members of the school's dance team,

Where do I apply for the Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship?

Click [ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](https://forms.gle/NeLCD8Fz5oNxgDTZ9) or copy and paste this link into your browser:
<https://forms.gle/NeLCD8Fz5oNxgDTZ9>.

What is the application deadline?

The deadline for applications is March 30th of applicants' senior year. Applicants must have completed the online application and submitted all required documents by the deadline.

Should I prepare my online application answers beforehand?

Yes! We strongly recommend that you review the long answer questions (previous page) and prepare your answers beforehand. We also suggest the following:

- Copy and paste the application questions into a Word document or similar file.
- Save your file as "Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship Application Answers".
- Double-check question instructions before and after you begin writing (previous page).
- Use spell-check and get help to proofread your answers and fix any errors.
- Once you are confident, cut and paste your responses into the online application.

How do I get a reference letter and from whom?

Reference letters should come from people who know you very well. This could be a previous employer, teacher, coach, pastor, or other member of your community. Simply approach the person (in person/email) with your request and provide them with all the information needed to prepare and submit your letter:

1. Information about the scholarship, its requirements, and deadlines.
2. A link to the website for more information about the scholarship:
www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org/scholarship
3. Copy and paste the reference letter instructions (above) into an email.
4. To help your reference, consider attaching your resume and a short statement about why you are applying for the scholarship.
5. Ask your reference to please email you the PDF reference letter and copy us too -
KelsieKarpiakFoundation@gmail.com.

What happens after I apply?

Once an application is received by the Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship Foundation, it will be reviewed for completeness and content. If anything is missing, we will reach out but remember, it is the applicant's responsibility to get everything submitted before the deadline. The Foundation will be back in touch with applicants towards the end of May. Please be patient as the Foundation notifies ALL applicants of their decision.

What is the value of the scholarship?

Scholarships of \$2000 are awarded to multiple recipients every year.



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How is the scholarship paid?

The Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship Foundation will deliver the award package to recipients in person or by mail. The funds are paid on the recipient's behalf directly against their account at the post-secondary institution where they are registered. For example, if you have accepted your admission to the University of Miami, the scholarship will not be paid until proof of registration is provided to us.

Where are the Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship recipients now?

We regularly stay in touch with our scholarship recipients. Their inspiring stories and testimonials are featured on our [Scholarship Recipients page](#).

Where can I get more information and help?

- INFO ABOUT US: Visit our website for information about the Kelsie Karpiak Memorial Scholarship Foundation at www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org.
- INFO ABOUT THE KELSIE KARPIAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: www.KelsieKarpiakFoundation.org/scholarship
- EMAIL US: KelsieKarpiakFoundation@gmail.com