

BEAT THE ODDS® QUICK FACTS

SCHOLARSHIP

- The *Beat the Odds* scholarship is a one-time \$5,000 scholarship to a post-secondary educational institution. The scholarship award may be applied to any educational expenses such as tuition/fees, books, or university room/board for up to four years from the time the scholarship is awarded.
- Honorees will also be awarded a laptop and a laptop sleeve, as well as a one-year subscription to Microsoft Office.
- Lastly, honorees will be awarded a \$100.00 clothing allowance to be used for purchasing dress attire for the *Beat the Odds* awards ceremony.

CITIZENSHIP

- Students do not have to be documented citizens.
- Immigration status does not affect eligibility.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Demographics do not affect a student's chance of receiving the scholarship

LOCATION

- School and/or geographic area do not affect a student's chance of receiving the scholarship.
- We do not count or limit the number of applicants from a particular school or base our decision to encompass a variety of schools/cities.
- Students must attend school within Minneapolis, St. Paul, or the inner-ring suburbs.
- We do try to have a variety of students/locations represented, but that is not a main consideration

NOMINATOR

- A nominator is required. However, it does not necessarily have to be someone from school. It can be someone from a community organization, church, etc. We generally look for nominators to be a type of mentor to students.
- The nominator cannot be a family member.
- Students can only have one nominator/nomination letter. Choose whoever can best represent the student based on relationship with nominators, who they've known the longest, who they've worked with more closely, and/or who can better speak to their story, qualities, and accomplishments.

NOMINATION LETTER

- Refer to bullet points outlined in the application.
- In regards to a student's story, we generally look for a recap of the student's story rather than a full explanation in the nominator's letter. It is helpful for us to have nominators talk more about the attributes students possess and how that aided in overcoming their obstacles rather than the obstacles themselves.
- It is helpful if the nominator's letter aligns with and verifies the student's story.

PUBLICITY

- Generally, we defer to the students and families regarding what is shared publicly.
- We do not want to cause problems for anyone, so the student decides what and how much to share in the videos and at the ceremony.