



2017-18 Stewards Scholarship Application

We understand that the expense of preschool can be a strain on a family's budget. We strive to keep our tuition as low as possible while continuing to provide a high-quality preschool program. Our Stewards Scholarship program was established in 2013 to help bridge the early learning access gap in our community. Scholarships are available annually to eligible children whom would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend our school due to financial hardship.

Stewards Scholarships are financed through donations. Most the scholarship funds have been provided by people from our community who care about children and who believe that our school provides a strong early learning program, a great first school experience and a place where children can grow as they learn actively about the environment and participate in our community.

Environment-based early childhood education helps children to become problem solvers and to develop key critical thinking skills that support their success in math, science, language, social studies, and the arts. Helping eligible families through the Stewards Scholarship Fund will allow more children to have this powerful foundation and is an important part of our program. Donations may be made to the Stewards Scholarship Fund at any time.

For the 2017-18 school year, scholarships will be awarded based upon financial need and may provide between \$500 and \$1,000 of total tuition costs, but no more than 50% of total program tuition. The family is responsible for providing the balance of the remaining tuition, together with application fee and supply fees as outlined in the school's handbook. Our school director will receive applications and submit them to the Scholarship Committee for review. Any personal financial documents provided during the application process will remain confidential and be returned or destroyed after scholarships are awarded.

Applications for the 2017-18 school year are due March 1, 2017. The application review process will begin on April 10. Recipients will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision within fifteen (15) business days. If you would like to apply, please submit the following:

- Stewards Scholarship application, with the supporting documentation required.
- School registration forms, with registration fee. Note: all students must be currently enrolled to be eligible to apply for the Stewards Scholarship program.

Applications may be submitted electronically to our director, at oalina@gigharborfoundation.org, dropped off at the school, or mailed to **GGHF Curious by Nature School, 7191 Wagner Way, Suite 101, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.**

GGHF Curious by Nature School

7191 Wagner Way, Suite 101 | Gig Harbor, WA 98335 | t: 253.514.6338, ext. 2

Stewards Scholarship Program Policies & Procedures

1. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of members of the Foundation's Board, will review all applications and determine scholarship recipients and amount of award. *School or Foundation staff may not vote or influence the Board's decision, but may provide information as requested.* Financial need is a prerequisite for eligibility based on availability of funds.
2. Scholarships are granted in the name of the child enrolled at GGHF Curious by Nature School.
3. Tuition payments to the GGHF Curious by Nature School must not be in arrears at the time of application or at any time while tuition assistance is provided.
4. Process
 - a. To be considered, an application must be complete, including a written statement of need, proof of income, and additional required documentation.
 - b. Prior to final decision, a member of the Scholarship Committee serving as a reviewer, shall contact the parent or legal guardian for an interview. Following the interview, and based on findings, the Committee member shall make a recommendation to the School Board and the Foundation's Executive Board.
 - c. The Greater Gig Harbor Foundation President or her/his delegate shall notify the parent/legal guardian of the Board's decision.
 - d. Scholarship awards are granted once annually.
 - e. As applicable, before a scholarship may be considered for renewal, the parent/legal guardian is required to update and submit her/his scholarship application, including financial status, by March 1 of the subsequent year. Tuition payments may not be in arrears at time of renewal. A submission of an application (new or renewal) is no guarantee of a scholarship receipt. Each case is evaluated on an individual basis.
 - f. Scholarship awards are for the purpose of attending GGHF Curious by Nature School and have no cash value outside of that context. No monies are paid directly to the parent or legal guardian, but instead are applied directly toward a portion of each remaining month's tuition in equal installments. Funds are committed annually for each school year cycle; once exhausted no further applications will be considered
5. Recipient Responsibilities
 - a. Scholarship families are asked to fulfill their registration fee, snack, supply and other responsibilities outlined in the school's 2017-18 handbook.
 - b. Parents of scholarship recipients are required to volunteer a minimum of two (2) hours per month to assist with the planning and implementation of school events that help fund the Stewards Scholarship Fund or otherwise benefit the school as determined by the school director. Please indicate the times you are available for volunteer service. *Failure to volunteer will result in loss of the scholarship.*

Volunteer Time Available: _____
(Please indicate day and time available - at least two hours a month)

GGHF Curious by Nature School Stewards Scholarship Application

Child's Name _____ DOB _____

Parent/Guardians' Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ Email: _____

Who does the child live with? (*circle one*)

Both parents Mother Father Other _____

Who has legal custody of child? _____ (*attach supporting documents if there has been a legal custody decision*)

Household Size (include parents/guardians and all dependent children) _____

Gross annual family income (circle one)*:

\$11,000-25,000 \$25,001-35,000 \$35,001-45,500 \$45,501-\$50,500 Over\$50,501

Have you applied for other financial aid? Yes No Date of Application: _____

Assistance received? Yes No If Yes, Monthly Amount: _____

Explanation of Need: *Please tell the Committee about your need for a scholarship for your child. Provide as much information as you need to fully demonstrate your need. You may submit a separate letter.*

*Please include a copy of two recent pay stubs and your most current W-2 forms with this application.

By affixing my signature below, I attest that the information provided above is complete, accurate, and truthful. In addition, I understand that the Foundation may verify the information on this application.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian

Information contained in this application will be kept confidential and used only for the purposes of determining scholarship assistance.

GGHF Curious by Nature School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs or other school-administered programs.