

Become the
LEADER we **NEED**

bezos scholars program

SCHOLAR



Are **You** a **Leader** in
Your **Community**?

Program At-a-Glance

There's no experience like the **Bezos Scholars Program**—a transformative, year-long, no-cost leadership development program.

Scholars receive leadership training from noted experts along with free college advising.

At the center of the program are **community change projects**—fresh approaches to solving urgent problems, conceived and launched by student-led teams with our support.

12 Scholars are chosen from **public schools across the U.S.** and 5 from the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa, along with an educator from each school.



"The BSP experience is hands down one of the best programs I have been a part of. It helped me fine tune my organizational skills as a leader, educator, coach, and mentor."

—Educator Scholar Alumni

Why Apply?

- Form lasting **friendships** across the U.S. and Africa.
- Experience an **all-expenses-paid trip** to Aspen, Colorado to attend the Aspen Ideas Festival.
- Engage in 45+ hours of virtual **leadership skill-building** sessions.
- Participate in **coaching** with Bezos Scholar staff to support your leadership journey.
- Receive FREE personalized **College Advising** for an entire year.
- Earn **\$1,000 in financial support** to launch a Community Change Project.



Turn your **Passion**
into **Action**

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Scholars yield equivalent or higher learning gains across critical leadership and socio-emotional outcomes than their peers did after a full year of college. For more details and to view educator outcomes, please visit the impact page of our website.

Students make gains in the following leadership outcomes:



Sense of Belonging

The degree to which Scholars feel a sense of affiliation and connection to the program and are able to instill a sense of belonging with others.



Leadership Efficacy

Internal beliefs about their likelihood of success when engaging in leadership processes.



Agency

Ability to start and sustain goal-directed efforts.



Resilience

Ability to persist in the midst of adversity and positively cope with stress.



Search for Purpose

Meaning-making grounded in the exploration of life's deeper purpose.



Collaboration

Desire and ability to work effectively with others in group processes.



Navigating Pathways

Ability to envision multiple pathways to achieve goals.



Civic Impact

Taking actions to leave a legacy and enhance the community beyond yourself.

Who are Bezos Scholars?

Scholars are **passionate and curious** young people who are rising leaders in their schools and communities.

Scholars are as **diverse** as their interests. We aim to build a cohort of Scholars that represents the diversity of lived experiences reflected across the United States and Africa.



"I am so grateful to have embarked on this leadership journey. I developed new friendships while improving my problem-solving and team-building skills. It has been a transformational, humanizing, one-of-a-kind experience."

—Student Scholar Alumni

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered, U.S. students must:

- Attend an eligible* public high school that currently has a 30% or greater overall free and reduced lunch rate.
- Be a junior at the time they are applying to the program.
- Be enrolled in or have taken during their high school career, one or more honors, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college-level course.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or have received DACA status.
- Be available to fully participate in the year-long program and attend all dates for the Aspen Ideas Festival trip in Aspen, Colorado, June 22-28, 2024.
- Nominate an educator, a willing and supportive adult from their school to serve as a mentor, who will fully participate in the program with them.

* To encourage equity of opportunity, students attending schools who've had a Scholar selected in 2022 or 2023 are not eligible to apply. For a full list of current ineligible schools, visit <https://www.bezosscholars.org/apply>

Educator Nominee

Students are required to nominate a trusted adult from their school to fully participate in the year-long program. Educators travel to Aspen with their student and mentor student leaders as they launch a Community Change Project.



Who is eligible?

A current school staff member OR staff member of a community organization that partners with your school.

What makes a strong nominee?

- Understand program expectations and have the capacity to take on additional commitments.
- Have built trust and a good relationship with their student nominee.
- Love their school and community and are invested in helping students take action to make change for the greater good.
- Are strong student advocates, allies and mentors
- Are invested in their own growth and recognize they know a lot—and still have a lot to learn.

Student & Educator Commitment

From May of the student's junior year to May of their senior year, Scholar commitment generally entails:

- Participate in up to two, virtual 2.5-hour workshops per month on Saturdays along with monthly activities, team meetings and assignments.
- Explore and engage with your cohort in Aspen, Colorado, for a full week at the end of June.
- Engage diverse community stakeholders to gather insight and input on community issues and specific needs stemming from those issues to inform Community Change Project topic.
- From your community, build a diverse and talented team of students and adult supporters, practicing shared leadership to successfully develop and launch a sustainable Community Change Project.

Students and Educator Scholars
dedicate between
10-20 hours per month
on program-related activities
throughout the year.



How to Apply



Applications are available online at bezosscholars.org/apply



Applicants need to identify and nominate a trusted adult from their school to become their educator nominee.



Applicants are responsible in ensuring their educator nominee submits their recommendation form by the deadline.

Application Requirements

- Basic personal contact and demographic information.
- General school information, current unweighted cumulative GPA and information on current enrollment in or completion of at least one advanced course.
- Two extra-curricular activities
- A one-minute video on why you want to become a Scholar.
- Three short written essay responses.
- Educator nominee form.

Applications are due January 25, 2024!



Founded in 2005, Bezos Scholars Program is operated and funded by the **Bezos Family Foundation** a private, independent foundation based in Seattle, WA.

Guided by the belief that all young people deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential and meaningfully contribute to society, the Foundation invests in the science of learning and the experiences that young people from birth through high school need to learn and thrive.

Learn more at bezosfamilyfoundation.org