

Become the **LEADER**
we **NEED**

bezos scholars program

SCHOLAR



Are You a Leader in
Your Community?

Program At-a-Glance

The **Bezos Scholars Program** is a transformative, year-long, no-cost leadership development program.

Student Scholars engage in leadership development skill-building through project-based learning and receive free college advising.

At the center of the program are **Community Change Projects**—fresh and sustainable approaches to meeting community needs.

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



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

—Educator Scholar Alum

Why Apply?

- Form lasting **friendships** across the U.S. and Africa.
- Experience an **all-expenses-paid trip** to Aspen, Colorado.
- Engage in virtual **leadership skill-building** sessions.
- Access supportive **coaching** from peers and staff.
- Receive FREE personalized **college advising** for an entire year.
- Earn **\$1,000** to launch a Community Change Project.



Program Learning Outcomes

Through the program, we aim for students to make gains in the following leadership outcomes:



Sense of belonging

The degree to which students feel a sense of affiliation and connection to the program and can instill a sense of belonging in others.



Leadership efficacy

A student's internal beliefs about their likelihood of success when engaging in leadership processes.



Agency

The ability to start and sustain goal-directed efforts.



Resilience

The 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

The desire and ability to work effectively with others in group processes.



Navigating pathways

The ability to envision multiple pathways to achieve goals.



Civic impact

The ability to take actions to leave a legacy and enhance the community beyond oneself.

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'm 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, one-of-a-kind experience.”

—Student Scholar Alum

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 high school, one or more honors, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college-level course.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or have received nonpermanent status like DACA or as a dependent of an H1-B visa holder.
- Be available to fully participate in the year-long program and attend all dates for the Aspen Ideas Festival trip in Aspen, Colorado, in late June.
- 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 2023 or 2024 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 their 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?

- Understands program expectations and has the capacity to take on additional commitments.
- Has built trust and a good relationship with their student nominee.
- Loves 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**, Scholars:

- Participate in two virtual 2.5-hour Saturday workshops per month along with team meetings and assignments.
- Explore and engage with your cohort in Aspen, Colorado, for a full week at the end of June.
- Engage community stakeholders to gather insight and input on community needs stemming to inform Community Change Project topic.
- 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



Nominate a trusted adult from school to commit to becoming your educator nominee, who will complete a recommendation form.



Submit a strong completed application by the deadline.

Application Components:

- 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 recommendation form.

Applications are due January 21, 2025!



Founded in 2005, the 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