



The Bezos Scholars Program engages exceptional students and educators in a year-long leadership development program that amplifies youth voice and action.

WE BELIEVE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE:

- **Are exceptional** and have the potential to be leaders.
- **Learn most effectively when engaged** in programs backed by the science of learning.
- **Need to feel a sense of belonging and purpose** to learn, grow, feel safe and take healthy risks.
- **Deserve opportunities** to generate creative ideas, lead and act on issues they care about.
- **Benefit when educators advocate** for youth-led ideas and initiatives.
- **Should have the opportunity to collaborate** with diverse communities and to connect across difference.

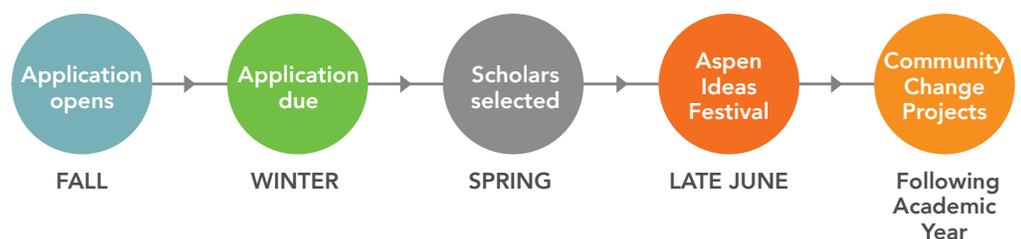
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Every year since 2005, 17 high school juniors and an educator from each of their schools are selected from across the U.S. and Africa as Bezos Scholars. The year kicks off with an all-expenses-paid trip to the Aspen Ideas Festival* and leads to Scholar-designed community change projects that raise awareness and mobilize action to address community needs. Throughout the year, Scholars take part in dynamic workshops designed to spark personal reflection and growth, hone leadership skills and inform their community change projects. The program also offers a strong alumni network and alumni are offered continued opportunities to connect, collaborate and take action for the greater good.

HOW SELECTION WORKS

Successful Scholars are passionate, intellectually curious young people who are rising leaders in their schools and communities. They are interested in personal growth, demonstrate a strong work ethic and strong communication skills, and want to engage in substantive ways to positively impact their communities. To be eligible, U.S. applicants need to be current juniors and attend a public high school with an overall free and reduced lunch rate of 30% and higher. A volunteer selection committee, comprised of leaders in their fields of education, youth leadership and development, science, and the arts, evaluate applications based on candidates' intellectual curiosity and commitment to their education, their demonstrated leadership and community engagement, and their readiness and capacity to engage in the program. For African applicants, they must attend the African Leadership Academy, which runs its own selection process in partnership with the program.

TIMELINE



Full eligibility requirements and application information is available online. Learn more at bezosscholars.org or email scholars@bezosfamilyfoundation.org.

*If the Scholar trip is not safely possible, virtual Aspen Ideas Festival programming will be offered in its place.

IMPACT

188 Community Change Projects launched

435 Global Network of Bezos Scholar student and educator alumni

50,000 people have participated in community change projects across the U.S. and Africa

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

—2019 STUDENT SCHOLAR

"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."

—2019 EDUCATOR SCHOLAR



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.

A PROGRAM OF THE BEZOS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Bezos Scholars Program is operated and funded by the Bezos Family Foundation; a private, independent foundation based in Seattle. 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. To learn more visit

www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org.



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bezos *scholars* program