

# Amplify Youth Voice and Action

bezos *scholars* program



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

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Programming is designed for Scholars to make gains in the following leadership outcomes:



### 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.



### Civic Impact

Take actions to leave a legacy and enhance the community.



### Navigating Pathways

Able to envision multiple pathways to achieve goals.

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Each year, **17 high school juniors** and an educator from each of their schools are selected from across the United States and Africa as Bezos Scholars. The experience kicks off with an exciting and inspiring trip to the **Aspen Ideas Festival** for a full week of Scholar-exclusive experiences with world-renowned leaders — all while having FUN and building lasting friendships.

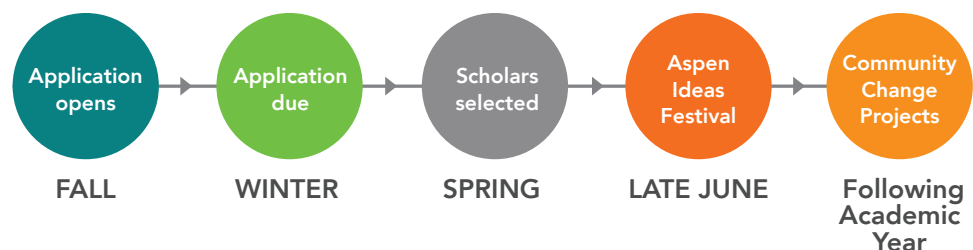
Throughout the program year, Scholars engage in dynamic virtual workshops designed to spark personal reflection and growth, hone leadership skills, and apply learning through project-based opportunities. It all culminates in Scholar designed and led **community change projects** that raise awareness and mobilize action to address community needs. Scholars receive:

- All-expenses-paid trip to Aspen, Colorado
- 40+ hours of leadership skill-building
- Unlimited coaching hours from the Bezos Scholars staff team
- FREE college advising
- \$1,000 in funding to launch a community change project

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

U.S. applicants need to be current juniors, attend a public high school with an overall free and reduced lunch rate of 30% or higher and be enrolled in or have taken at least one advanced course (Honors, AP, IB, etc.). They also need to nominate a staff person from their school to serve as their educator Scholar, who participates fully in the program alongside them. 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 [bezoscholars.org](https://bezoscholars.org) or email [scholars@bezosfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:scholars@bezosfamilyfoundation.org).

## LEARNING OUTCOMES CONTINUED



### Sense of Belonging

Affiliation and connection to the program and can instill that sense with others.



### Leadership Efficacy

Believe in their ability to succeed as a leader.



### Agency

Able to start and sustain goal-directed efforts.



### Resilience

Able to persist amid adversity and cope with stress in ways they deem healthy.

## WHO ARE BEZOS SCHOLARS?

Each year we aim to build a cohort of Scholars that represents the diversity of lived experiences reflected across the U.S. and Africa. Successful student Scholars are passionate, intellectually curious young people who are rising leaders in their schools and communities. Educator Scholars are strong student advocates and allies, believe in the power of project-based learning, and want to learn how to better help students strengthen their voice and take action on something they care about.

*"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

## HOW DOES SELECTION WORK?

We utilize a volunteer selection committee composed of members who reflect applicants that apply and who are leaders in their fields of education, youth leadership and development, science and the arts. Some members are also former Bezos Scholars. Using a holistic selection process that considers multiple aspects of a candidate, our selection committee evaluates and scores applications based on three main criteria: intellectual curiosity and commitment to their education, their demonstrated leadership and community engagement, and their readiness and capacity to engage in the program.

*"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."*

— 2019 EDUCATOR SCHOLAR

## IMPACT

200 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

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### 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, WA. Learn more at [bezosfamilyfoundation.org](https://bezosfamilyfoundation.org).

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