



## 2026 Summer Enrichment Scholarship Program

Assistance League of Bellingham (ALB) 2817 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

website: <https://assistanceleague.org/bellingham>

Phone: (360) 738-2803

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Assistance League of Bellingham (ALB) is offering summer camp scholarships to students in grades 6-11 (student's grade level at time of application) who attend public schools in Whatcom County, including home-schooled students with a Whatcom public school affiliation.

### SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS AND DUE DATES FOR SUMMER OF 2026

- This year ALB will be awarding up to \$1200 to high school students, currently in grades 9-11, and up to \$600 to middle school students, currently in grades 6-8.
- **Applications are due on or before March 21, 2026.** Applications may be mailed to the ALB Thrift & Gift Shop, **but must be received by no later than March 21, 2026 to be considered.** The mailing address is Assistance League of Bellingham, ESP Chair, 2817 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98225. Applications may also be **hand-delivered** to an ALB volunteer in our Thrift Shop at 2817 Meridian Street during open hours Wednesday through Saturday, from 10am-4pm.
- Scholarship awardees will be notified by April 10, 2026.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT ESP SCHOLARSHIPS

- Scholarships are awarded based on merit.
- ALB does not suggest summer camps; the program selected is up to the student. Programs that qualify include a wide range of possible subjects including debate, music, dance, art, theater, STEM, leadership, ecology, and more. ALB does **not** fund sports camps, private lessons, classes for credit and religion-based camps. The program fees for school sponsored summer travel programs may be considered on a case by case basis. ALB does not fund transportation costs; ALB only funds tuition and fees.
- Students who attend private schools or who are relatives of ALB members are **not** eligible to apply.
- PAYMENT is made directly to the camp or program, **NOT** to the student. If the summer camp or program costs more than the maximum scholarship award, the student's family is responsible for making up the difference.
- Every public middle school and high school in Whatcom County is guaranteed that at least one student who completes an application and qualifies, will receive a scholarship.

### TO APPLY:

- An Application is considered complete when the following four items are put together and submitted to ALB. Students must (1) complete the Application form, (2) write an essay following the directions from the Essay form, (3) have a non-relative adult write a recommendation using the Recommendation Form which is to be sealed in an envelope and signed by the recommender across the envelope flap, and (4) complete the Publicity Consent & Release form (the parent/guardian may request in writing to waive this requirement on the form).
- The Application and the Publicity Consent & Release must have the student and parent/guardian signatures.
- All four forms are available from school counselors and/or may be downloaded from:  
<https://assistanceleague.org/bellingham/philanthropic-programs/enrichment-scholarship-program>

**QUESTIONS?** Contact a school counselor or email the ESP chairperson at [ESPchair@albham.org](mailto:ESPchair@albham.org)





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### APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

#### STUDENT INFORMATION

Applicant Name (first/last) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (include zip code) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant School \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address Applicant Checks Routinely \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Best Way to Contact Applicant (text/email/phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (first/ last) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best Way to Contact Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

#### SUMMER PROGRAM INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Program \_\_\_\_\_ Program Cost \_\_\_\_\_

**Your application is due no later than March 21, 2026 and must include the following:**

1. Application form, SIGNED
2. Essay (see The Essay form).
3. Recommendation form with narrative, written by a non-relative adult, SIGNED.  
Recommender's Name (first/last) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_
4. Publicity Consent & Release form, SIGNED or a written request to waive this, SIGNED.

In order to be complete, applications must include all four items and must be received by ALB (mailed or hand-delivered to a volunteer in our Thrift & Gift Shop) no later than 4pm on **MARCH 21, 2026**.

*In signing below, you and your parent/guardian both attest that (1) The information you have submitted here is accurate; (2) The essay is your original work (it's okay to have someone proofread it, however, the use of AI will disqualify your application); (3) You are responsible for selecting a summer program/camp that qualifies under ALB rules (refer to General Information sheet); (4) You are responsible for any program costs beyond the amount ALB pays for summer scholarships (ALB pays up to \$600 for grades 6-8 and up to \$1,200 for grades 9-11); (5) If you receive an ALB scholarship, you will be asked to provide information regarding payment for your summer program, including camp contact person and contact details, and if check or credit card is accepted; and (6) If you decide **NOT TO USE** your scholarship, promptly inform the ESP Chair, [ESPChair@albham.org](mailto:ESPChair@albham.org), so the scholarship may be used for someone else.*

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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### RECOMMENDATION FORM

*(To be completed by a non-relative adult – PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender Name and Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

You have been asked to provide your evaluation of this student, who is competing with their peers for a scholarship to attend a summer program of their choice. (ALB does not fund religion-centered programs, classes for credit, sports camps, or private lessons.) As ALB is not always able to fund all the students who apply, letters of recommendation are very important in helping decide which students are most likely to benefit from a scholarship. **Student applications are due on or before MARCH 21, 2026 and must include this Recommendation form with the application.**

Please circle the number closest to your response to the questions below:

1. In your opinion, how committed/motivated will the student be about attending their chosen summer program?

Very committed                      5            4            3            2            1            Not at all committed

2. To what extent do you think having a summer program opportunity will benefit this student?

Very beneficial                      5            4            3            2            1            Not at all beneficial

In a short narrative (below or on the back of this page, or in an attached letter), please give us more information – In what capacity, and for how long, have you interacted with this student (i.e., are you a counselor, teacher, coach, neighbor, etc.)? What are the student's strengths? Are there special circumstances we should consider, for example, is English their second language? Are there other circumstances you may be aware of that you think we should consider in evaluating the student's application?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Please put this signed form in an envelope, seal it and then sign across the envelope flap before giving it to the student. **Students must include this form with their application.**

Recommender Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **2026 Summer Enrichment Scholarship Program**

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### **THE ESSAY**

Please choose ONE of the following topics for your essay- based on your grade level. (Middle School students answer either topic A or B. High School Students answer either topic C or D.)

Your essay is to be written on a separate sheet of paper. At the top of the page put your NAME and the LETTER associated with your chosen topic. The essay may be handwritten, or typed on a computer and printed, and must be included with your Application. Think carefully about what you are going to write with your own personal voice and words. It's okay to ask someone to proofread your essay, but the essay should be your original work based on your own ideas. The use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) will disqualify your application.

**YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION IS DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 21, 2026**

#### **Middle School (grades 6-8) Essay Topics**

**Essay Length: 100-200 words**

Pick one of the following:

- A. How would you hope to benefit by attending a summer program? Describe the program/camp that interests you. How would this program be helpful in your personal growth and perhaps aid your future goals?
- B. In your spare time, what activities excite you and why? How does this summer program/camp relate to any of these interests? What would you hope to gain from attending this program?

#### **High School (grades 9-11) Essay Topics**

**Essay Length: 200-300 words**

Pick one of the following:

- C. Being passionate and curious about something often leads to successful and satisfying future careers. What do you really enjoy doing as a chosen activity? What have you done to learn more about this activity? How will this camp experience add to your understanding and enthusiasm about this activity?
- D. Camp experiences can be a fun alternative to school. Why did you choose this particular program/camp? What are the activities and opportunities it provides that really excite you? Is there something you hope to learn that will help you in the future in some way?

***THANK YOU! We look forward to reading your essay.***



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**PUBLICITY CONSENT & RELEASE FORM**

Assistance League of Bellingham has my permission to publish in print, electronic, or visual format

the name, image/likeness of (*print student name*) \_\_\_\_\_  
with their school affiliation and name of summer program.

To Be Used For: *Enrichment Scholarship Articles, Photos, Events, & Internet Publicity Purposes for Assistance League*

I waive any rights or compensation or copyright ownership thereto.

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent / Guardian Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent / Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**OR, IF YOU DO NOT CONSENT TO PUBLISH,** Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Student applications are due on or before MARCH 21, 2026 and must include this signed form.**

**FORMULARIO DE CONSENTIMIENTO Y LIBERACIÓN DE PUBLICIDAD**

Assistance League of Bellingham tiene mi permiso para publicar en formato impreso, electrónico o visual,  
el nombre, imagen/ semejanza de (*escribe el nombre de alumno*) \_\_\_\_\_  
con su afiliación escolar y nombre del programa de verano.

Para Ser Utilizado Para: *Enrichment Scholarship Artículos, Fotos, Eventos y Fines Publicitarios en Internet para Assistance League*

Renuncio a cualquier derechos o compensación o propiedad de derecho de producción.

**Firma del Solicitante** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fecha** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nombre Impreso del Padre / Guardián** \_\_\_\_\_

**Firma de Padre / Guardián** \_\_\_\_\_

**O, SI NO ACEPTA PUBLICAR,** Firma del Padre/Guardián \_\_\_\_\_

**Las solicitudes de los estudiantes deben presentarse antes del 21 de marzo de 2026 y deben incluir esta forma firmada**



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### STUDENT CHECK-OFF SHEET

**For Student Reference Only - Do Not Return**

Please use this personal check-off sheet to ensure a successful application:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark your calendar for the scholarship application deadline:  
**March 21, 2026**

\_\_\_\_\_ Make a decision about your summer program early in the process. Your school counselor has a list of many camps previously attended by former ALB scholarship recipients. Your teachers may also have suggestions about summer program opportunities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Meet with your school counselor if you have questions about the application.

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact a non-relative adult to write your letter of recommendation early in the process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check that all four documents are submitted together no later than **March 21, 2026:**

- Application Form, with student and parent/guardian signatures
- Student Essay, on a separate sheet of paper
- Recommendation Form with the recommendation, sealed in an envelope, signed by the recommender across the envelope flap
- Publicity Consent & Release Form, with student and parent/guardian signatures

Your application may be submitted by mail, or hand-delivered to the ALB Thrift Shop during open hours of 10 am - 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday. The last day to submit your application packet is by 4 pm on March 21, 2026. (Mailed applications must be received by the due date to be considered.)



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**APPLICATION SCORING RUBRIC**

**For Student Reference Only - Do Not Return**

	<b>1 point</b>	<b>2 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>	<b>4 points</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Essay Areas</b>					
Capitalization Grammar Punctuation Spelling	<b>MANY</b> errors in Capitalization Grammar Punctuation Spelling	<b>SOME</b> errors in Capitalization Grammar Punctuation Spelling	<b>FEW</b> errors in Capitalization Grammar Punctuation Spelling	<b>NO</b> errors in Capitalization Grammar Punctuation Spelling	
Sentence Structure & Vocabulary	<b>MANY</b> Run-on or Incomplete Sentences Many Syntax Errors Limited Vocabulary	<b>SOME</b> Run-on or Incomplete Sentences Some Syntax Errors Limited Vocabulary	<b>FEW</b> Run-on or Incomplete Sentences Few Syntax Errors Varied Vocabulary	<b>NO</b> Run-on or Incomplete Sentences No Syntax Errors Superior Vocabulary	
Essay Topic Development <b>**see attached for more information</b>	<b>UNDEVELOPED</b> Topic <b>LACKS</b> Focus	<b>SOME</b> Topic Development <b>MINIMAL</b> Focus	<b>GOOD</b> Topic Development and Focus	<b>SUPERIOR</b> Topic Development and Focus	
Letter of Recommendation	-	Low-Moderate Recommendation 2 points	-	High Recommendation 4 points	
Packet Materials Neat, Complete and On Time	Incomplete - 1 point			All Documents Complete and Legible - 4 points	

**Total Score** \_\_\_\_\_

## ESSAY TOPIC DEVELOPMENT

1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	Score
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a brief description of the desired program.</li> <li>• The essay is confusing and repetitive.</li> <li>• The program's benefits to the student are unclear.</li> <li>• There are less than the minimum number of words requested.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a description of the desired program.</li> <li>• The supporting details are few; not all are relevant to the request.</li> <li>• The flow of the essay is at times hard to follow.</li> <li>• Number of words is within standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a clear description of the desired program.</li> <li>• There are a number of supporting details; most but not all are relevant.</li> <li>• The description of benefits is somewhat vague.</li> <li>• The flow of the essay is logical and easy to follow.</li> <li>• Number of words is within standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a clear description of the desired program.</li> <li>• The supporting details clearly explain why the student is interested in this program and how it will benefit the student.</li> <li>• Details are relevant and add depth.</li> <li>• The flow of the essay is logical and easy to follow.</li> <li>• Number of words is within standard.</li> </ul>	

## **CAMPS ATTENDED BY AL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**

(These are just some of the camps that students have attended in past years. Students may select other camps that meet the scholarship criteria.)

### **Animals**

- Langs Pony Farm
- Kelly Park Stables
- Whale Museum Marine Naturist Program
- Animals as Nature Therapy

### **Music**

- Blaine Harbor Music Festival
- WWU-Chamber Days
- Summer Strings Academy
- Japan-Seattle Suzuki Institute
- Seattle Youth Symphony
- IU Conference – Jacobs School of Music
- Evergreen Music Festival
- Central WA Univ Jazz Camp
- Texas Chamber Music Institute
- Bellingham Music
- BYU Choral and Vocal Institute

### **Art**

- Pace Atelier Art Studio
- Bellingham Art- BAAY
- Creative Hands Studio
- Jansen Art Center
- Core Concept Art Skills

### **Dance**

- NW Dance Intensive/Dancing for Joy Summer Institute
- Olympic Ballet School
- Dance Conservatory-Seattle Dance Intensive
- Central PA Youth Ballet Academy
- The Camp Dance Studio Summer Camp
- Ballet Austin

### Scouting

- Camp Merriweather
- Camp Fiesta
- Scouting of America
- Camp at Pigott

### Public Speaking, Writing and Leadership

- Gonzaga Debate Institute
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Penn State Broadcast Journalism
- National Symposium for Debate
- Economics for Leaders
- Emerging Writers Institute
- AWSC Summer Chinook Leadership

### Health Care/Medicine

- National Student Leadership Conference/Medicine and Healthcare
- National Student Leadership Conference/Nursing
- Medical and Healthcare Camp at Duke Univ.
- Nursing/Pacific Summer High School Institute

### Computers/AI

- Bellingham Coding and Robotics Club
- AI Adventures in Machine Learning
- Create and Learn- Python for AI
- Coding, Design and Build Battle Bots
- UW Youth and Teens – Fundamentals of AI

### Other

- Camp LarraBAAY
- Camp Kirby
- Wild Whatcom
- Majestic Adventures
- YMCA Summer Camps
- Camp Nor'wester
- Bellingham Yacht Club Camps
- Circus Smirkus
- Summer Fashion Academy at Lipscomb Univ.