



Pearls of Service Foundation of Central Texas
In Partnership With
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Mu Theta Omega Chapter
PO BOX 4062
Killeen, TX 76540



Kay E. Brown Memorial Scholarship

Dear Graduating High School Senior

We are excited about your interest in applying for our 2026 **Kay E. Brown Memorial Scholarship**. Our organization is committed to providing service and support to deserving students in our Central Texas community. Our goal is to award one \$1,000.00 in scholarship money to high school seniors from schools within Bell and Coryell Counties.

Please mail your completed application packet to our post office box, post-marked by **March 25, 2026**. You will be contacted by phone to schedule an interview if your application packet is selected. A letter will be sent to notify you of the final results. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to be of service to you.

Best Wishes,
2026 Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Application Requirements

- Currently a senior attending a public, private or parochial high school located in Bell or Coryell County
- Complete Scholarship Application
- ***Intended major of Education, Communications or Journalism***
- Provide two letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should not be from a family member.
 1. One letter of recommendation from a *High School* scholastic staff or faculty member (Principal, Assistant Principal, Counselor, Teacher, etc.)
 2. One letter of recommendation from a community member (Minister, Employer, etc. that is not a scholastic or faculty member)
- An official high school transcript. The transcript should be stamped, sealed or signed by your school's registrar.
- Provide signed documentation of community service hours for the time period of January 1, 2023 – February 28, 2026. Documentation should include location, date, description of service, amount of service time and signature of adult sponsor



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- Write an essay.
 1. The essay must be 500-750 words, typed, double spaced, 12-point font and Times New Roman font face.
 2. Essay cover sheet should include your name, name your high school and essay topic
- Essay Topics – please select one
 1. “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela. Describe a change you would like to make in the world. Tell us about how you would plan to make that change, and what obstacles you might encounter along the way.
 2. Though proponents of year-round education claim that the schedule helps children retain information otherwise lost during a lengthy school break, others claim that the shorter break does not affect retention of learned material. What is your stance on this measure? Provide specific reasoning or examples to support your position.

Student Guidelines for Using AI in Writing Scholarship Essays

We recognize that some applicants will use AI tools. For those who do, we encourage AI to be used wisely and ethically to ensure your work remains authentic and personal. It’s also important to know that there are risks and drawbacks, including the lack of personal touch and plagiarism. Here are some guidelines for using AI:

- Use AI to Support, Not Substitute: AI should be used to assist you in the writing process, not to write the essay for you. Use AI for brainstorming, grammar checks, structural suggestions, and feedback, but ensure the core ideas and content are your own.
- Avoiding Plagiarism: Always start with your own ideas and experiences. Use AI to refine and polish your writing but avoid copying text generated by AI word for word.
- Share Your Story: AI can tell general or generic stories, but it cannot tell your story. Scholarship committees are human and want to hear about your unique experiences, challenges, and aspirations. Illustrate your points with specific examples from your life using your own voice. This makes your essay more engaging and relatable.
- Review AI Suggestions: Carefully review any changes or suggestions made by AI to ensure they align with your voice and message. Adjust as needed to maintain your personal touch, and don’t let it overshadow your ideas.
- Proofread: After using AI tools, thoroughly proofread your essay to ensure it reads naturally and authentically.
- Seek Human Feedback: In addition to AI, seek feedback from teachers, mentors, or peers. Human perspectives can provide valuable insights that AI might miss.

If you follow these guidelines, you can effectively use AI to enhance your scholarship essay, ensuring it reflects your personal experiences and aspirations. Below are additional resources you can reference in using AI ethically and effectively.



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2026 Scholarship Application

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Name of High School: _____

Applicant's Contact Information:

Mailing Address	
E-mail Address	
Primary Phone	
Secondary Phone	

Applicant's Family Contact Information:

Father/Guardian Name		Mother/Guardian Name	
Father/Guardian Email Address			
Mother/Guardian Email Address			

Do you have any relatives that are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc?

Name	Initiation Chapter & Year	Relationship to Applicant



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Applicant's Family Information

Father/Guardian Occupation		Mother/Guardian Occupation	
Annual Household Income (approximate): \$			
Total number of members in the household (parents, self, siblings, etc):			
Number of other sibling(s) currently attending college:			

Applicant's Extra Curricular Information: List your active organizational participation.

Club/Organization Name	Dates Served	Position Held

Applicant's Academic Information: List college preparatory classes you have taken (e.g. AP Biology 12th grade).

Subject(s)	Grade Level(s)	Yearly Average
Current Grade Point Average:		Current Class Rank:

Applicant's Future College Information:

List the names and locations of your top three college/university choices.	Applied?/Accepted?
What is your intended major and/or minor?	



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Applicant's Community Service Information: Give the number of community service hours you have documented. **Attach signed documentation**

Sponsoring Organization	Description	Dates	Hours

Applicant's Work Experience:

Employer/Organization	Dates of Employment	Position Held

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent's/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



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2026 Scholarship Application Application Checklist

Use the following checklist to ensure your 2026 Scholarship Application has been properly completed for submission prior to deadline. Incomplete applications and applications post-marked after the deadline will not be considered.

Your application **must** include the following documents:

- A completed application form (typed form preferred)
- Applicant and Parent Signature on application
- Typed essay containing 500-750 words, double spaced, 12 pt font, Times New Roman font face
- One letter of recommendation from a *High School* scholastic staff or faculty member
- One letter of recommendation from a community member
- Official high school transcript
- Documentation of community service
- Application post-marked by March 25, 2026 (Please be aware that the new USPS rule may affect postmark dates for mailed items)

Mail application to:
Pearls of Service Foundation of Central Texas
Scholarship Committee
PO BOX 4062
Killeen, TX 76540

Questions:
pearlsservicctx@gmail.com



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Background

Kay E. Brown attended Texas Southern University, where she majored in Journalism, graduating in 1967 and obtained her teaching certification in 1971. An avid writer, she loved English and storytelling and ultimately through her 35-year teaching career focused on those areas. She taught English in Killeen ISD (including at the highest – AP readiness level). Kay stressed the importance of academic excellence overall and served as sponsor for the National Honor Society. Utilizing her passion for storytelling and journalism, she also served as the school newspaper sponsor and was a reference for many students who later matriculated to college themselves. Many of her students have become educators and authors, utilizing the tools and influence that she provided during their formative years.

Mrs. Brown was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for 45 years before her passing in 2023. This Scholarship is named in her honor.