

KATY A&M CLUB

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

I. Amount

The Katy A&M Club will award four (4) \$2,000 scholarships to KISD area high school students who plan to start their freshman year at Texas A&M University for the Fall 2024 semester.

II. Eligibility

Eligible students must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Live in or receive education within the Katy Independent School District boundaries, including home schools and private schools.
2. Be a high school senior.
3. Already applied for admission to Texas A&M University for the upcoming fall semester. The student need not have been accepted to A&M prior to submitting this scholarship application, but the payment of the scholarship award monies is contingent upon their acceptance and enrollment at Texas A&M University for the 2024 fall semester.

Other Financial Aid

It is the policy of the Katy A&M Club to assist as many students as possible with available scholarship funds. Accordingly, in the event a recipient obtains significant financial assistance from other sources, the Katy A&M Club reserves the right to review the award status and withdraw the scholarship.

III. Criteria for Selection

The Katy A&M Club Scholarship Committee will choose recipients using the following factors and weights:

1. Financial need: 30%
2. High school grades and college entrance exam scores: 20%
3. Extracurricular activities, community involvement, and work experience: 20%
4. Essays and a letter of recommendation from principal, teacher, or community leader: 30%

Winners will be determined without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability.

IV. Deadline and Other Information

1. Please use electronic application form to complete, then print, and **mail**.
2. Application with supporting documents must be **RECEIVED** by **March 22, 2024**
3. Scholarship recipients will be notified during the second week of April.
4. Scholarship recipients will provide the Katy A&M Club with their TAMU UIN# and an electronic color photograph of themselves within five days of being notified.
5. Scholarship recipients will be introduced and recognized for their accomplishments as part of the Katy A&M Club Aggie Muster ceremony on April 21, 2024.
6. Funds will be disbursed through the Texas A&M University Financial Aid Office.
7. In some instances, phone interviews may be conducted to assist the Scholarship Committee in selecting the scholarship recipients.

V. Tips on Applying for a Scholarship from the Katy A&M Club

We are glad you want to attend Texas A&M and we wish you success in your college career. We evaluate every scholarship application very carefully. We choose our recipients based on financial need, academic achievement, and general factors such as motivation, community service, letters of recommendation, and the impression that your application provides to us. We only know about your motivation, community service, and you as a person from **what** you tell us about yourself, and **how** you tell us about yourself. Both are important and can influence our decision.

We hope these tips and frequently asked questions will be helpful to you. While this advice may seem obvious, we receive applications every year that include mistakes covered here.

- Start working on this application early. We can tell who spent time and effort on the application and who did not. The short essays will require time to do well.
- Make it easy for the committee to learn about you - use the electronic Word document. Every year we receive scholarship applications from students who hand-write the application; however, a typed application is definitely more professional. If you hand-write your application, please print and use a black pen.
- Do some research about A&M. Even if everyone in your family graduated from A&M, browse through some recent publications and/or visit the A&M website at <http://www.tamu.edu/>.
- Write clearly. You do not have to write prize-winning prose; just give us clear and complete sentences in formal English. Write something and then read it aloud to see how it sounds. If you make careless errors, we will conclude that you do not take the scholarship seriously.
- When you are finished, proofread your application. Read it aloud. **Proofread it again!**

Eligibility: If you have any questions about your eligibility for this scholarship, you may contact the Katy A&M Club Scholarship VP at katyamclub@gmail.com.

Background Information: Please be sure to complete all requested information in this section.

High School Curriculum and Performance: This portion of the application comprises *20% of the evaluation*. Please include the most recent grade information possible. You will need to attach a High School transcript and your SAT and/or ACT score report.

Family Income/Family Information: This portion of the application comprises *30% of the evaluation*. Please fill out as completely as possible. Give us additional information, where applicable and useful, about your family's finances.

Work Experience/Extracurricular: This portion of the application comprises *20% of the evaluation*. This section gives you an opportunity to identify what you consider to be your most significant non-academic accomplishments. We are particularly interested in knowing about the leadership roles you have held and the volunteer activities you have performed. This may include activities in clubs, athletics, church and civic organizations. This is also the place to describe any special family responsibilities, work experiences, or other extracurricular activities outside of the classroom. Always list the most important items first. Be brief, but thorough. Make sure each item is understandable to someone who is not familiar with a specific organization.

Essays and Letter of Recommendation: This portion of the application comprises *30% of the evaluation*. Notice that you may **not** attach additional essay sheets here, but rather should use the space available within the application form (the form expands as you type). We want something concise, but full of information. Most applicants provide a response that is ½ page to ¾ page long per question, but the focus should be on quality rather than quantity.

What do you want to accomplish in your career and life and why?

Specific goals and a passion for a particular career are impressive to the committee, but if you are still unsure about what you want to do, that is all right, too. We know that it takes some people longer than others to figure out what career is best for them. Just write sincerely and generally about what interests you and what you hope to accomplish.

Describe a significant experience or situation in your life that you feel has shaped your outlook, abilities, or academic credentials.

Describe an event in your life that you feel somehow changed your life. Have you had to face or overcome an exceptional hardship or setback? What particular personal experiences have you had that have shaped your outlook or abilities and/or provided you with the motivation and determination to succeed at A&M?

Why do you want to go to A&M?

Give reasons associated with your career and life goals. What does A&M offer you that other schools do not? Are there unique personal reasons that will help distinguish your desire to attend A&M from other scholarship applicants?

Letter of Recommendation:

Select the person to write your letter of recommendation very carefully. Make sure this person understands your specific goals so they can emphasize the aspects of your personality, academic performance and extracurricular activities that relate to that goal.

The letter should explain the position or status of the person writing the letter and their relationship with you. It should contain **specific** examples that illustrate your abilities and accomplishments. Other topics you may wish to include are your intellectual abilities, personal motivation, work habits, and/or emotional maturity.

The letter should not exceed one page in length. The writer's emphasis should be on the quality of their comments, not the quantity of their comments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to submit an official transcript?

No. You may submit an unofficial transcript, but it must include grades and coursework through the Fall 2023 semester.

Do I need to attach my SAT/ACT score report if my transcript includes my scores?

Yes. You need to attach a copy of your SAT/ACT score report that shows your overall score plus the scores in the individual sections. This can be a copy from the testing center platform.

Am I eligible to apply for the Katy A&M Club scholarship if I live within Katy ISD boundaries but attend a school in the Houston area?

Yes. To be eligible to apply for the scholarship, you must live in or receive education within the Katy Independent School District boundaries.

Am I eligible to apply for the Katy A&M Club scholarship if I live outside Katy ISD boundaries but attend a school within the Katy ISD boundaries?

Yes. To be eligible to apply for the scholarship, you must live in or receive education within the Katy Independent School District boundaries.

Am I eligible for the Katy A&M Club scholarship if I receive an offer of Program Systems Admission (PSA) from Texas A&M?

No. The Katy A&M Club scholarship is for high school seniors who have been accepted and will enroll at Texas A&M University for the 2024 fall semester. This includes TAMU College Station, TAMU Blinn Team, TAMU Galveston, TAMU McAllen, and TAMU Qatar. TAMU Gateway students would need to demonstrate program completion and enrollment in Fall semester prior to disbursement of scholarship monies.

Does a teacher need to write my Letter of Recommendation?

No. You may choose anyone who understands your specific goals so they can emphasize the aspects of your personality, academic performance and extracurricular activities that relate to that goal. The most effective Letters of Recommendation contain **specific** examples that illustrate your abilities and accomplishments, inside and outside the classroom.

Does the application, transcript, SAT/ACT Score Report and Letter of Recommendation all need to be mailed together in one envelope?

No. All materials **MUST** arrive no later than March 22, 2024 for the application to be considered complete. Email submissions (including Letters of Recommendation) will not be considered. Most applicants include a sealed copy of their Letter of Recommendation together with the other supporting documents and application to ensure timely arrival of all materials.

May I hand deliver the application versus mailing it?

Yes. You may deliver the application in an addressed envelope addressed to Postal Copy Center where the Katy A&M Club mailbox is located (27120 FULSHEAR BEND DR STE 900-45 FULSHEAR TX 77441-1190). You are advised to consult their opening days/hours prior to hand delivering your application.

I have a receipt that I mailed the application via Fed Ex, UPS Next Day, USPS Priority Mail for “next day” delivery. Does that meet the “received by” requirement?

No. Each year, we have several applications that do not arrive by the “received by” deadline despite the “next day” delivery method. All materials **MUST** arrive no later than March 22, 2024 for the application to be considered complete.

GOOD LUCK!