

Ayla Lankerd Scholarship for Dreams

Description/ Qualifying Criteria: Scholarships awarded to Marshall-area graduating seniors pursuing an advanced degree or post-secondary certification in the arts or sciences at a two- or four-year educational institution. Applicants must exemplify Ayla's attributes of independence, wittiness, intelligence, tenacity, nonconformity, courage, competitiveness, desire for perfection and quirky sense of humor. Ayla Lankerd was born on August 31, 2010 and attended Marshall Public Schools until a sudden illness took her from earth on June 8, 2021. Although she was only alive for 10 short years, she lived each moment to the fullest. She was a competitive gymnast and loved to play soccer and basketball. She liked owls, sloths, rainbows and peace signs. She was unapologetically herself. At one time, she wanted to cure cancer and then wanted to be a rock scientist (her words). She created beautiful artwork from the pictures in her mind. She was a leader, never really caring what others thought of her, only concerned with her self-realization. She had anxiety but always worked herself through it and overcame it. She always pushed through. This scholarship fund was created in her memory as a way to remember her beautiful soul that left this earth too soon. This scholarship also gives the family an opportunity to provide support to other students that embody Ayla's personality traits so they can go forth and carry out their dreams whether it's to cure cancer, become a rock scientist or make a living in artistry. Financial need, GPA and evidence of involvement in co- and extra-curricular activities, may be determining factors.

Essay Questions: 1) What dreams do you hope to accomplish in your lifetime? 2) What impact do you hope to have on the world in your lifetime? 3) Which of Ayla's attributes (described above) do you exemplify the most and why?

Recommendation Letters: Two required- one from a school educator/administrator and one from an adult member of the community (not a family member).

Financial Criteria: *Yes, complete the financial information portion of the online application and upload the first page only of your FAFSA Student Aid Report.*

Application Process: Complete the online application found on the Marshall Community Foundation website: marshallcf.org/receive/scholarships/apply/. This is a new process, so please contact the Foundation for assistance or with any questions you may have.

Deadline: March 1

Contact: Marshall Community Foundation 269.781.2273, e-mail: info@marshallcf.org website: www.marshallcf.org