

MU ALPHA THETA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship for High School Students is a scholarship for outstanding graduating high school seniors who are members, in good standing, of an active Mu Alpha Theta chapter. The recipient of this award should be an outstanding mathematics student and will have provided exemplary leadership and service to their Mu Alpha Theta chapter by enthusiastically participating in local projects with evidence of service in the area of mathematics and by doing so advancing the mission of Mu Alpha Theta. A number of \$4,000 scholarships and two \$5,000 awards will be available each year.

The Mary Rhein Memorial Scholarship

Mary Rhein was a mathematics teacher from Ohio who was active in the National Mu Alpha Theta organization for 22 years. Mary believed that Mu Alpha Theta gives students, who excel in mathematics, an identity and a place to belong. She always encouraged her members to act as ambassadors for Mu Alpha Theta, and she viewed competition as a dynamic way for students to use math concepts learned in the classroom. The Mary Rhein Scholarship was initially funded by a donation to the Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation from the estate of Mary Rhein and the \$5,000 scholarship is now supported by the Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation.

The Sally Scudder Memorial Scholarship

Sallie Scudder was born to do two things: teach math and coach softball. She was passionate about making a difference in the lives of her students and had a positive influence on everyone around her. She taught Calculus and Softball at Berkeley Preparatory School from 1996 to 2002, when she left to return to teach and coach at her alma mater, H. B. Plant High School until her death at the age of 36. The \$5,000 scholarship is supported by donations from the Berkeley Math Club of 2000 – 2001.

All scholarship awards will be sent to the recipient's school of choice to be used for tuition, fees, books, or other educational expenses during the 18 months following the date of the award. In order to receive these funds, the recipient must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university. Should funding from our scholarship not reduce a recipient's family financial burden, they should decline the scholarship. In this case, another deserving student will be selected to receive the award.

HOW TO APPLY

Each chapter may submit **no more than two** nominations for these scholarships per year. The chapter's sponsor will determine how nominees are selected, keeping in mind that they should meet the criteria described above.

Student Essay

On a separate sheet of paper, write a double spaced essay of no more than 500 words that discusses the following.

Keeping in mind the mission of Mu Alpha Theta, which is to inspire a keen interest in mathematics, develop strong scholarship in the subject, and promote the enjoyment of mathematics, describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability within your Mu Alpha Theta Chapter and list your most meaningful achievements. Discuss specific accomplishments that set you apart from others in your chapter. Describe how these achievements have advanced the mission of Mu Alpha Theta. If you have participated in competition mathematics, how has that contributed to who you are today? How will your study of mathematics contribute to your long range career goals?

Transcript and Test Scores

A sealed official copy of the applicant's high school transcript, signed across the back by a school official should be sent. Please include standardized test scores (SAT and/or ACT, or others.)

Contest Results

A list of contests you participated in while a member of Mu Alpha Theta and your place (if applicable). This list should be signed by your sponsor to verify its accuracy.

Letters of Recommendation

All applicants must provide **two** recommendation letters, one from the Mu Alpha Theta Chapter Sponsor and one from a Mu Alpha Theta member in the chapter. Recommendations should not come from family members.

Kalin Award Option

The Kalin Award recognizes graduating high school seniors who have excelled in mathematics and performed notable service to Mu Alpha Theta communities. This is the highest honor any Mu Alpha Theta member can receive. The top five nominees for this award will be interviewed by the Governing Council, either at our summer convention or electronically. **Sponsors may nominate only one member from their chapter for the Kalin Award each year.** If a student is applying for a scholarship, the sponsor may check the box on the Sponsor Letter of Recommendation form and write additional paragraphs as to why they feel the applicant deserves this award. A separate application for the Kalin Award does not need to be completed for a student that is applying for a Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship. However, should a sponsor decide to nominate a student for the Kalin Award that **is not** also applying for a scholarship, the student must complete the Kalin Award Application instead.

A sponsor does not need to tell a scholarship applicant that they have also been nominated for the Kalin Award, if they wish to keep the nomination secret.

A single, large envelope containing all materials should be submitted by each applicant.

You may check off necessary items to be included in the envelope:

- Application Form
- Student Information Form
- Student Essay
- Student's **official** high school transcript, including first semester's grades from your final year of school, and **standardized test scores.**
- Contest Results, if any (with sponsor signature)
- Mu Alpha Theta sponsor Letter of Recommendation (Letter must be signed and in a sealed envelope with the teacher's signature across the back flap.)
- Mu Alpha Theta member Letter of Recommendation (Letter must be signed and in a sealed envelope with the member's signature across the back flap.)

Envelope must be **postmarked by March 1** and mailed to:

Mu Alpha Theta / Scholarship Committee / 601 Elm Avenue, Room 1102 / Norman, OK 73019

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Student's Name: _____

School: _____

Please complete the following. You may use a separate page, if preferred.

1. List the number of years you were an active participant in Mu Alpha Theta.
2. List and describe your duties for any Mu Alpha Theta offices held and include the year. List and describe any other Mu Alpha Theta leadership roles you performed and the year.
3. Describe and include the year of your participation in specific chapter activities, include tutoring.
4. List ACT math and/or SAT math scores.
5. List with a brief description any mathematical research completed in math or science during your high school years.
6. Have you been **selected** for participation in any state, national or international math program or competition? If so briefly describe the program or competition. Did you participate?
7. Have you taken any post secondary or additional math or science courses for credit beyond high school?

Letter of Recommendation – Mu Alpha Theta Sponsor

Student's Name _____

Person Writing Recommendation _____

Please write a recommendation letter for the student above who has applied for a scholarship from Mu Alpha Theta. We prefer that recommendations do not come from a family member. When writing the recommendation please discuss this student's mathematical ability, participation, activities, math competition participation and results, leadership, and contributions to encouraging interest in mathematics **citing specific examples.**

It is helpful if you read the student's essay and information form before writing your recommendation. Providing information and details not already discussed by the student is helpful in learning more about the individual when we judge the applications.

What leadership roles has this applicant held? **Be specific.**

Approximately what % of club activities has this applicant attended?

In approximately what % of competitions available has this applicant participated?

Your recommendation should be signed and returned to the applicant in a sealed envelope, signed across the back flap. If this page does not accompany your recommendation, please write the student's name on the front of your envelope. Thank you.

Kalin Award Option

The Kalin Award recognizes a graduating high school senior who has excelled in mathematics and performed notable service to Mu Alpha Theta communities. This is the highest honor any Mu Alpha Theta member can receive. The top five nominees for this award will be interviewed by the Governing Council, either at our summer convention or electronically. **Sponsors may nominate only one member from their chapter for the Kalin Award each year.** If your student asked you to fill out this recommendation form, you may also nominate him/her for the Kalin Award. **You may do this by checking the box below. Please write additional paragraphs as to why you feel the applicant deserves this award.** A separate application for the Kalin Award does not need to be completed for this student. However, should you decide to nominate another student for the Kalin Award that **is not** also applying for a scholarship, that student must complete the Kalin Award Application. You need not tell your scholarship applicant that they have also been nominated for the Kalin Award, if you wish to keep the nomination secret. The Kalin Award winner receives an additional \$2,500 and a distinguished plaque.

This student is our chapter's nominee for the Kalin Award.

Letter of Recommendation – Mu Alpha Theta Member

Student's Name _____

Person Writing Recommendation _____

Please write a recommendation letter for the student above who has applied for a scholarship from Mu Alpha Theta. You must be a member or former member of the school's Mu Alpha Theta chapter that knows first-hand of this student's service and their leadership in your chapter. **Please cite specific examples.** We prefer that recommendations do not come from a family member.

This recommendation should be signed and returned to the applicant in a sealed envelope, signed across the back flap. You are welcome to use your own paper. If this page does not accompany your recommendation, please write the student's name on the front of your envelope. Thank you.