Panda Cares Scholars Program

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) is partnered with Scholarship America to administer the Panda Cares Scholars Program.

Key Contacts
Scholarship Requests & General Inquiries
bgcyouth@scholarshipamerica.org

Sarah Mattson, Program Manager, Scholarship America
smattson@scholarshipamerica.org

Kayla Hiller, Director, Corporate Partnerships & Account Management, BGCA
khiller@bgca.org

Eligibility
Scholarship America requires a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for scholarship utilization. If the GPA is below 2.5, student will receive a probationary letter from Scholarship America. Failure to maintain the GPA could result in a scholarship hold.

Students pursuing their undergraduate degree must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college. Full-time is based on 12 credits per semester or 24 credits per academic year. An exception can be made if a student is in their final semester and does not require 12 credits to graduate, or if less than 12 credits is considered full-time by the school and/or the program.

Within one year of successful completion of undergraduate (bachelor's degree) or graduate (master's or doctorate degrees) studies, students may request use of scholarship funds toward conferences, professional certifications or study abroad programs.

The conference/certification/program must be provided by a recognized organization or entity and related to the student's degree or profession. Students must provide a written explanation to BGCA and Scholarship America of why and/or how this conference/certification/program will further their studies and/or career.

Activation & Requests
Scholarship America will contact the recipient and their designated contact(s) with instructions, an award letter and Payment Request Form (PRF). Students are required to provide a copy of their current transcript (once per year), course schedule for the current term, and a fee statement or receipts for the requested expense.

To make a scholarship request, the student will send an email to Scholarship America's scholarship request inbox at bgcyouth@scholarshipamerica.org with their request, attaching the completed PRF and required documentation. Scholarship America update recipients on their balance by sending students quarterly balance emails.

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The student must notify Scholarship America and BGCA by email immediately if contact information or any other important school information has changed.

Utilization
Students have 2 years from their scholarship activation date to utilize scholarship funds. Extension of this award is possible with BGCA approval. All extension requests must be made in writing no less than three (3) months prior to original expiration date. Extensions are for one-year (12 months) and may be requested up to three (3) times. In special circumstances further extensions may be granted and will be reviewed and approved by BGCA on a case-by-case basis.

The scholarship is exclusively for educational purposes, including tuition, required fees, books, tutoring, career preparation, technology-related expenses, course-specific supplies, and internships.

Payments
Scholarship reimbursements are paid through BGCA's Procure to Pay system, Basware. This will enable scholarship funds to be processed electronically to the student or their university.

One-time registration link: https://portal.basware.com/open/scholarship. If you need assistance, please contact BGCA's Finance Team at BGCAP2P@bgca.org. If at any time your payment information should be changed, please let BGCA's Finance Team know.