



WFLA Wisconsin Upper Michigan Scholarship

Western Fraternal Life is a not-for-profit financial services organization that gives back to the communities where members live and work.

Western Fraternal Life has a rich history covering more than 100 years of fraternalism. In the mid-nineteenth century, millions of immigrants came to the U.S. to seek the American dream. For many of the earliest members, that dream meant buying and owning land. The immigrants soon found that they needed to protect themselves and their families from life's uncertainties. Fraternal Benefit Societies began in the mid-1800's as a way to bind those with a common bond (ethnic, religious, trade, etc.) and to provide support and opportunities for financial security.

In 1897, members created a new society known as, "Zapadni Ceska Bratrska Jednota" or Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. The society would uphold the values they held dear; Truth, Love, and Loyalty. Those three words became the motto of the organization. The members believed that the lives of both men and women were valuable to households and became one of the first fraternalists to insure women in 1899. In 1919, members also voted to insure juveniles. As years passed and Western Fraternal Life grew, membership was opened to all in 1947. Later, it became apparent to the Association that Western needed to change its name to reflect its inclusive membership. At the 1971 National Convention, members voted to change the name to Western Fraternal Life Association.

Eligibility:

Graduating high school senior planning to attend full-time in a post high school educational institution and a W.F.L.A. member in good standing in a Lodge in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Award Amount:

Award amount and number of awards will vary. Minimum award amount of \$500, maximum award amount of \$1,000.

Selection:

Recipients are selected prior to high school graduation by the Community Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee. Selection may be based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community activities, financial assistance and a written statement.

Payment Procedure:

Scholarship payments will be released after submission of the following to the Community Foundation: scholarship verification form, verification of full time student status for 2nd semester (class schedule with credits listed) and grade transcripts from the first semester of freshman year of college or technical school. After approval of submitted documentation, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending during the second semester of the freshman year of college or technical school.

Loss of Eligibility:

Failure to register as a full-time student for both the first and second semesters of your freshman year of college or technical school will result in eligibility. In addition, you must provide your first semester grade transcript (unofficial is acceptable) to the Community Foundation no later than March 1st, of your second semester.

Further Information:

For more information regarding the scholarship application process please contact either Brenda Vrieze at brendavrieze@outlook.com or 608-487-2655 or the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region at scholarships@cfoxvalley.org or 920-702-7619.