



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 Bratska 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 fraternal 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:

After successful completion of your first semester in college, scholarship payments will be released upon submission and approval of the online scholarship verification form. Log in to your account on the Community Foundation Web Portal at <https://donor.cffoxvalley.org/SpectrumWebPortal>. Click on Scholarship Applicant, My Awards. Click on the Scholarship Name and then on the Follow-up Action towards the bottom of the page. Complete, save and submit the online scholarship verification form. The scholarship check will be paid directly to the school you will be attending during the second semester. Most communications between the Community Foundation and the student will be via email. *Please keep us advised of your current email address.*

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 loss of eligibility. In addition, you must complete the online scholarship verification (instructions under Payment Procedure) 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@cffoxvalley.org or 920-702-7619.