In 2009, a group of highly active community members of the Greater Houston Area recognized the need to extend their reach into the communities they were trying to serve in a more efficient and effective way. This group formed a non-profit organization, The CAUSE Foundation, to aid in their efforts.

The CAUSE Foundation became recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on May 10, 2010. Since its conception, the foundation has been well aware of its vision and mission of providing culture for service and service for humanity.

Since its first year of formation, The CAUSE Foundation supporters and Board have worked tirelessly to invest in the Houston community by awarding scholarships to deserving young adults, expanding their educational opportunities.

**The CAUSE Foundation’s organizational core competencies are:**

* ***Provide timely, relevant, and accessible mentoring and training.***

The CAUSE Foundation’s educational offerings cover topics including financial management, communications, life skills, self-confidence and leadership. The CAUSE Foundation provides the resources and support that youth and young adults need to effectively make healthy decisions as they strive to survive the challenges of neighborhoods rife with gang life and immersed in poverty.

* ***Build the capacity of youth and young adults to be their own best voice.*** The CAUSE Foundation builds the capacity of tomorrow's potential leaders to be confident and competent voices on issues that impact their individual lives and communities by providing them with workshops, mentoring sessions, scholarships, and other resources.
* ***Program Development***

The CAUSE Foundation draws upon the expertise and knowledge of its network to develop impactful programs and services. The CAUSE Foundation highlights program design, implementation, and evaluation strategies applicable to all nonprofits (youth services, arts, environment, health, recreation, social services, advocacy, etc.)

* The importance of needs assessment, asset identification, and other research findings that identify authentic community needs.
* Mission-driven program design and outcomes
* Adequate allocation of resources (staffing, space, funding, etc.)
* Inclusive programming strategies
* Program logistics
* Program marketing plan
* Program evaluation strategies
* ***Provide targeted information on sector trends and tax and budget issues.*** The CAUSE Foundation studies information about the constituents of its community for trends that will lead The CAUSE Foundation to modify its programs for relevancy.

Consistent with these core competencies; The CAUSE Foundation will award $2,000 scholarships to Houston area high school seniors and/or college students who are currently enrolled in a degree program.

 **To be considered for a scholarship award, each applicant must submit:**

* A completed CAUSE Foundation Educational Scholarship Application (must be typed). A copy of the application can also be downloaded from The CAUSE Foundation website at [www.causefoundation.org](http://www.causefoundation.org).
* An official sealed transcript (must be sent by high school registrar to the address provided).
* Three letters of recommendation (from a school counselor, teacher, employer, or community service organization representative, etc.). \* Please note that letters from family members will ***NOT*** be accepted. \*
* A minimum of fourteen **documented** (official letterhead) community service hours (nursing home, church, tutoring, etc.)
* Resume (work experience, community service, extracurricular activities, education, etc.)
* One typed essay containing 650 - 750 words. The essay should include a personal statement, educational goals, and any relevant information not discussed elsewhere in the application. *\*The essay* ***must*** *be written in Times New Roman lettering, 12-point font, and should be double spaced with 1” margins.*

To be eligible for consideration, a complete application must be post-marked no later than **the date posted on the website**. All applications are to be mailed to:

**THE CAUSE FOUNDATION**

**Attention: Scholarship Chairman**

**P.O. Box 1370**

**Fresno, Texas 77545**

**Requirements for The CAUSE Foundation Scholarship Award:**

1. Applicants must be a senior in high school or enrolled in college.
2. Applicants must currently be attending a Houston area high school, college or university. The applicant can also be a native of Houston currently attending a college or university within the continental United States.
3. Essay criteria is as follows:
* Essay shall be **typewritten** on 81/2” x 11” paper in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins
* Essay should be double-spaced
* Essay must have a minimum of 650 words and a maximum of 750 words
* Applicants **must** cite at least three sources in their essay

Awards will range between $1,000.00 and $2,000.00

**Essay Topic**

*With all that is going on in today’s society, how can education help you make this society a better place? How do you believe this scholarship will help you achieve those goals?*

1. Applicants must submit an official stamped transcript (high school or college, whichever is appropriate for applicant’s current level of study) with their application. **Incomplete essays and applications will not be judged**.
2. A completed application, essay with coversheet, and official transcript must be postmarked by **the date posted on the website** and submitted to:

**The CAUSE Foundation**

# P.O. Box 1370

**Fresno, TX 77545**

**Attention: Scholarship Chairman**

|  |
| --- |
| Applicant Information |
| Full Name: |       |       |     | Date: |       |
|  Last First M.I. |
| Address: |       |       |
|  Street Address Apartment/Unit # |
|  |       |       |       |
|  City State ZIP Code  |
| Phone: | (     )       | E-mail Address: |       |
| Did you complete high school in Houston, TX? | YES[ ]  | NO[ ]  | Are you a citizen of the United States? | YES[ ]  | NO[ ]  |
| Do you attend high school in Houston, TX? | YES[ ]  | NO[ ]  |  |  |  |
|  |
| Education |
| High School: |       | Address: |       |
| From: |       | To: |       | Did you graduate? | YES[ ]  | NO[ ]  | GPA: |       |
| College: |       | Address: |       |
| Classification: |       | Intended Major: |       |
| GPA: |       |  |       |
| School Activities & Community Involvement |
| Please detail your extra-curricular activities & community involvement. Note length of participation (i.e. years as a member, etc.) & any leadership positions held (include dates of terms served). |  |
| Disclaimer and Signature |
|  |
| I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If chosen as a recipient, I understand that false or misleading information in my application may result in the loss of this award. |
| Signature: |  | Date: |  |

##  Additional Information

## Essay Writing & Documentation Tips

## Purdue MLA-style Writing Guide: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

## CCC MLA-style Writing Guide: <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml>

## MLA Handbook <http://www.mla.org/store/CID24/PID159>

## Harbrace College Handbook by John Cunyus Hodges

## For questions and updates:

## Email: [Scholarship\_Chairman@thecausefoundationhouston.org](file:///E%3A%5CScholarship_Chairman%40thecausefoundationhouston.org)

## Website: [www.causefoundation.org](http://www.causefoundation.org)