

Westwood Alumni Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my gift tax deductible?

All donations to the Westwood Alumni Scholarship are handled by Mesa United Way, a 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, your donation may be tax deductible based on your situation. Please consult your tax advisor for tax advice on your specific situation.

How much of my gift will go to the scholarship and how much will be for administrative fees?

The Westwood Alumni Scholarship is run by volunteers and has no overhead expenses. Mesa United Way has agreed to accept donations and disbursements at no charge to the scholarship. Therefore, no amount is used for administrative costs. However, 20% of every gift is set-aside in an endowment that will be used to fund the scholarship in perpetuity.

Why do I make my donation payable to Mesa United Way if it is meant for the Scholarship?

Mesa United Way has graciously agreed to be our fiscal agent. This means they collect and house all donations for the scholarship until we need to disburse the funds. In addition to being a respected organization in our community, Mesa United Way offers a professional administrative network to support other not-for-profit organizations in Mesa and receive an annual financial audit. Their professionalism and financial infrastructure offer the tools we need to build the scholarship.

How can I help to raise money for the scholarship?

The Westwood Alumni Scholarship would love your help in raising money for our scholarships. We are always happy when alumni ask their friends to donate to the scholarship or share information about the scholarship on Facebook. Additionally, you can join the **Alumni Representative Committee** as an alumni representative for your class to spread awareness and help raise money. If you are interested in helping in this capacity, please contact us at WestwoodAlumniScholarship@gmail.com.

Who do the scholarships go to and how did you decide the scholarship criteria?

Our hope is to fill a needed space in the scholarship landscape by focusing on non-traditional recipients and meaningful award amounts (\$1000 or higher). Scholarship recipients are accomplished students with GPAs between 2.8 and 3.5 that might not otherwise be able to afford advanced education, in part because they don't qualify for automatic state GPA scholarships. The first award each year is a general scholarship, with additional awards being given for *Community Service* and *Vocational School* depending on donation levels.

How many scholarships are awarded each year?

The amount we are able to award in scholarships depends on how much is raised each year. The more we raise, the more we are able to give. Awards will be at least \$1000 each, and we will give at least one award. We are hoping to be able to award more and more scholarships each year.

What is the Alumni Representative Committee (ARC)?

The Alumni Representative Committee is made up of Westwood alumni from different years that serve as the main fundraising arm for the scholarship. The mission of the committee is to spread awareness of the scholarship to different alumni classes, bring in a diversity of donors, and grow the endowment fund year-over-year. ARC also serves as the selection committee for the awards each year.

Can I partner with the Scholarship to create an award for a specific group of students?

We'd love to talk to you more about that! Contact us at WestwoodAlumniScholarship@gmail.com

