

FAQ's

Who is a Certified Descendant?

Anyone originating or coming from an ancestral enslaved person whose involuntary labor helped establish, expand, and sustain Jesuit missionary efforts and educational institutions until the abolition of slavery in 1865.

If I have been Verified in the past, must I complete the Certified Descendant application process again?

No, you do not have to complete the Certified Descendant application again if you are a GU272 Descendant Association Verified Descendant member. Just click [Certified Descendant](#) and log in with your email and click on password "(forgot?)" to reset your password.

If I know I am a Descendant why must I get Certified?

Certified (formerly known as Verified) DESCENDANT - Satisfactorily proves Descendant identity of GU272 or the Jesuit Enslaved Ancestral Diaspora (This membership type qualifies for full GU272 Descendant Association and is eligible to receive full Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation benefits)

What methods of Certification are acceptable?

- A. Spouse or Child of a Living Certified Descendant
- B. Professional Genealogical Research
- C. Electronic Ancestral Family Tree
- D. Ancestry DNA Comparison
- E. Completion of GU272-Jesuit Enslaved Ancestry Genealogy Research

If I am a Descendant and I have a spouse are they eligible?

Yes, the current Spouse of a living Certified Descendant is eligible for certification.

What is the Certification Time between submission and getting an actual member number?

The timeline for approval of a Certified Descendant is dependent upon receipt of your online [Certified Descendant](#) application and any required supporting documentation proving your descentance from a GU272-Jesuit Enslaved Ancestor, review and disposition of the application could be up to 60 days depending on the volume of applications.

Who is the Descendant Truth and Reconciliation Foundation?

The Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation is an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit partnership that works to mitigate the dehumanizing impact of racism on our human family while dismantling the continuing legacy of slavery in America through truth, racial healing and transformation. For more information, see descendants.org

What is the Thurgood Marshall College Fund?

Established in 1987, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) is the nation's largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community. TMCF member-schools include the *publicly-supported* Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), and Historically Black Community Colleges (HBCC). To date the organization has awarded more than \$300 million in such assistance to its students and member-schools. TMCF distributes 98% of its awards exclusively to HBCUs and PBIs, which is more than any other organization that supports the Black College Community. Learn more at tmcf.org

Does this scholarship include Descendants that are pursuing a Master or Doctorate degree from an accredited university?

Yes this scholarship is also available to Descendants that are pursuing an advanced graduate degree Master's or Doctorate degree.

What does "Financial Need" mean?

As part of Thurgood Marshall College Fund's administrative process, they will receive confirmation of an outstanding balance from your institution; this reported "outstanding balance" determines your Financial Need.

If a Parent is Certified, do their children need to be individually certified?

Yes. Each Descendant will need to be certified and issued their own Certified Descendant Membership Number.

Is this scholarship only for HBCUs?

No, this scholarship includes all 2 and 4 year accredited colleges and universities. It covers advanced degree programs (i. e. Master's and Doctorate)

Will the scholarship funds be given directly to me?

No, these scholarship funds will be sent directly to the institution on your behalf, upon meeting the requirements outlined in the scholarship application..

Is there a limited amount of scholarship funds available?

Yes, there is a limited amount of scholarship funds available and the funds will be issued on a first approved - first financial needs basis.

Will the scholarship be available for more than one year?

DTRF, TMCF, and the Association will continue to work together. This program is designed to be everlasting. We have agreed to a five-year commitment to offer this program through TMCF.

Can I just become a Certified Member of the Association and not apply for the scholarship?

Yes. The Descendant and their entire family are encouraged to complete the Certified Descendant application process (we recommend starting with the oldest living Descendant

member in your lineage) . However, being a Certified Descendant is a requirement for applying for the scholarship and any other DTRF descendant benefits.

Is there a fee to become a Certified Descendant of the Association?

No. There are no fees to become a Certified Descendant of the GU272 Descendants Association. There are also no additional fees to maintain your Certified Descendant status; it is a Lifetime for the lineage Descendant.

How do I contact the Association?

By Mail:

Certified Descendant
GU272 Descendants Association
P.O. Box 9562
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

By Phone: +1(225) 369-0568

By Email: info_certify@gu272.net or certify@gu272.net

Does the Association have a newsletter?

Not at this time. The inaugural newsletter will be distributed in the first Quarter of 2024.

Does the Association have a website?

The new and improved updated website will launch the first Quarter of 2024.

What are my options if I can't become a Certified Descendant of the Association?

In addition to Certified Descendant status, you are welcome to apply to become either:

1. **Declared DESCENDANT Member** - Self-identifies as a Descendant of a GU272 or the Jesuit Enslaved Ancestral Diaspora (*This membership type only qualifies for partial Descendant Association benefits and is not eligible to received any Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation benefits*).

Or

2. **Non-DESCENDANT Member** (Individual or Entity) - Any person or entity of goodwill who is committed to engaging in Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation regarding the legacy of slavery in America and chooses to honor the legacy of our ancestors. (This membership type only qualifies for partial Descendant Association benefits and is not eligible to received any Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation benefits)

Why is the Association named GU272 when there are others known to be enslaved by the Jesuits?

When the Association was organized in 2016 the emerging history of the additional Jesuit enslaved Ancestors was not known at the time. Now that we understand the diaspora of the Jesuit enslavement, the Association is in the process of rebranding in order to ensure inclusion of ALL enslaved persons by the Jesuits.