



## THE SYLVIA RICKS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Optimist Club recognizes that education is the key to a better way of life for our children, and no one with the Optimist Club of the Westbank understood that connection better than our long time member Sylvia Ricks. Mrs. Ricks worked tirelessly for the children of the Westbank. Her strong conviction for service and her belief in education, is the reason we named our scholarship in her honor. The Sylvia Ricks Scholarship Award is given to a Westbank student whose services to the community and academic achievements are best aligned with their future goals.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

All scholarships are a onetime scholarship. Scholarships will be given to candidates attending a traditional four year College/University program or a two year Technical College or Trade School.

### CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for a scholarship, student must satisfy the following minimum requirements.

- Candidate must have a cumulative high school Grade Point Average of 2.5 or greater based on a 4.0 scale.
- Candidate must have a minimum of 18 ACT score.
- Candidate must have two letters of recommendation with original signature - one from an educator and one from an outside source (not a relative).
- Candidate must have participated in extracurricular activities and provided community service activities OR must have work experience.
- Candidate must submit an essay of 400-600 words, typed, double spaced, single sided with references to research sources, if applicable.
- Completed application must be submitted to the Optimist Club, postmarked on or before

**Friday, February 28, 2025**

*\*NOTE: If you live on the West Bank of Jefferson, Plaquemines, or Orleans (Algiers) parish, but attend high school elsewhere you can apply. The student must attend a Louisiana college or university. Exceptions will be considered if a Louisiana college or university does not offer the desired degree program.*

***Please list desired degree for exceptions.***

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**SYLVIA RICKS SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION 2024-2025**

- ☐ Will be attending a Four Year College/University  
☐ Will be attending Technical College or Trade School

**PLEASE USE SEPARATE  
SHEETS IF NEEDED**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Total Number in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Last 4 Digits SS Number

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City, State, Zip

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Include Home Phone # and Cell Phone # with area code

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE: \_\_\_\_\_

ALT DEGREE CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPOSITE ACT OR SAT SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

**HONORS/ACHIEVEMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYMENT RECORD: (INCLUDE SUMMER, PART, & FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT)**

Name of Business

City & State

Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**SYLVIA RICKS SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION 2024 – 2025**

**ESSAY:**

Submit an original essay of **400 – 600 words**, (**typed, double spaced on a separate page**) on the following topic.

***Describe your vision for your career path and where you see yourself working and living following graduation. Which of your personal qualities and life experiences do you believe will be most beneficial in helping you reach your goals?***

Please return this application, a current photo, 2 letters of recommendation, high school transcript, ACT or SAT scores and your qualifying Essay to:

Scholarship Committee  
West Bank Optimist Club  
P. O. Box 1534  
Gretna, LA 70054-1534

**Must be Postmarked by February 28, 2025**

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APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

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DATE

For questions email Karen Lowery at [kajunlady23@yahoo.com](mailto:kajunlady23@yahoo.com)  
or  
Steven Guccione at [sguccione@outlook.com](mailto:sguccione@outlook.com)

**Interviews will be held in-person or via Zoom.  
If you are selected, you will be notified via text message or  
email with a date and time of your interview.**

**If you are a recipient of a Scholarship you are  
automatically enrolled as an honorary  
Optimist Club Member.**