

# Young Democrats of Skagit County Scholarship



The Young Democrats of Skagit County is the only group dedicated to fostering civic engagement and political activism among young people in Skagit County - a field largely dominated by those older than us. In this mission, we are excited to announce our annual scholarship for high school and university students: directly supporting their financial ability to attend higher education and find meaningful careers in their field. This scholarship will be **up to \$500 for one student**, with the potential for further awards to be allotted depending on the success of our fundraising efforts.

Despite our name, we are a separate entity from the Democratic party, though our membership overlaps as some of members choose to pursue meaningful change through the party's work. Your voice is our voice; with our main goals being youth civic engagement, providing pathways for young people to find meaningful jobs in politics, and promoting candidates who will benefit our community, the stances our organization may take on any particular topic are for our membership to decide. You can take charge in deciding which direction this organization goes from within Skagit, Washington, or even nationwide. With chapters in 48 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and D.C., we are the largest partisan youth-led organization in America with plenty of opportunities for you to get involved at any level.

## **Eligibility -**

This scholarship is open to juniors and seniors from all Skagit County public high schools planning on attending some form of higher education as well as first and second-year students enrolled in Skagit Valley College or Western Washington University with an interest in civic engagement and political activism. To be a member of the YDSC, you must reside at least part time in Skagit County and be under the age of 36. Voting age or ability to vote is **not** a prerequisite for joining the organization or applying for this scholarship.

## **Requirements -**

1. Attend YDSC meetings and show active engagement in the organization.

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2. Write a short essay (at most 500 words) on your commitment to political engagement - while very flexible, an example would be why you got involved, how you will remain involved, and your hopes for the future.
3. Essays must be submitted by **May 2nd (deadline at 11:59pm)**. It is highly recommended that you attend your first meeting as soon as possible.

## Submission -

1. Roll call will be taken at each meeting.
2. Essays may be submitted at any time but they will not be considered until our May meeting.
3. Submissions will be accepted via email to [ydiskagitcounty@gmail.com](mailto:ydiskagitcounty@gmail.com) (any format).

## Procedure -

1. Applications will be judged by the Executive Board of the YDSC, with members of the Executive Board who are also applicants recusing themselves.
2. Both the quality of the essay and the participation of the applicant from within the organization and activism at-large will be taken into account toward the award decisions.
3. **The winner(s) will be announced during the May 9th General Board Meeting from 1pm-2:30pm at the Skagit Democrats HQ in downtown Mount Vernon.**
4. In addition to the official announcement at the meeting, a Facebook post and a mass email will be sent out to our membership congratulating the winner(s) with the option for the winner(s) to share their essay(s).
5. Up to \$500 will go to one winning applicant but additional awards will be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board in response to the success of our fundraising efforts.

## Miscellaneous -

1. No individual notice will be given to non-winning entrants.
2. Meetings for the YDSC are held **the second Saturday of every month at the Skagit Democrats HQ in downtown Mount Vernon from 1pm-2:30pm**
3. Meeting reminders and events posted on the organization's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/YDSkagitCounty/>
4. You can subscribe to our emails here: <http://eepurl.com/cBdF8P>

If you have any questions, please contact our Facebook page or email us at [ydiskagitcounty@gmail.com](mailto:ydiskagitcounty@gmail.com)