

The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation  
**2019 Scholarship Application Form and Information**



# Michaels

EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION

Dear Students, Parents, and Friends of Michaels:

All high school seniors and graduates living in sites managed by Michaels or its affiliates are invited by the Board of Directors of The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation to apply for scholarship grants for the 2019-2020 academic year, totalling at least \$500,000 to be awarded in June, 2019.

The Foundation, in its twenty-ninth year, is issuing this invitation to distinguished residents who are pursuing some form of higher education, in college, trade/professional school, or institute. The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation is a privately funded, non-profit educational organization that was created in February, 1991, expressly to assist high school graduates living in Michaels properties throughout the nation. In its first twenty-eight years, the Foundation awarded in excess of \$5,900,000 to worthy students throughout the country. This is one of the few foundations of its kind in the nation.

We encourage the financial support of corporations, companies, families, private trusts, and individuals wishing to join us in this effort to honor and assist those who are the future of the Michaels communities.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any phase of the Foundation's work to help students living in Michaels sites throughout the nation.

Sincerely yours,



Michael J. Levitt  
*Chairman & Chief Executive Officer*  
The Michaels Organization



Rebecca Tone  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*  
Better Tomorrows  
(A social services provider to TMO)

# Scholarship Information For Applicants And Parents

## ELIGIBILITY

All high school students who plan to begin post-secondary studies at colleges or trade/professional schools are eligible for these grants provided he/she resides on a site which is professionally managed by The Michaels Organization (TMO) or it's affiliates. The applicant/family must be in good standing with the rules and regulations of HUD and TMO.

High school graduates residing at sites managed by TMO or it's affiliates who are currently enrolled in college undergraduate programs or trade/professional school and plan to return to post-secondary studies for the 2019-20 school year are also eligible, and may apply for a TMO grant. A matriculated boarding student may apply provided his/her primary residence is with a parent/guardian residing on a site which is professionally managed by TMO or it's affiliates, (applicant/recipient must be named on all applicable lease documents). **Applications for graduate level programs will not be accepted.**

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria used to select grant recipients includes academic performance, character, and proficiency, or potential proficiency in a chosen field of study. Each of these criteria carries equal weight in determining who will receive grants. Academic performance is determined by evaluating high school or college grade transcripts released to the Foundation by the student.

All high school students applying must possess a minimum of a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent. All matriculated college students applying must possess a minimum of a 2.3 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent. College students applying for grants who have attained sufficient credits at their institution of higher learning to be considered as a junior, must specify a declared major. The Foundation values student efforts in working toward a degree.

Character will be evaluated through examination of an essay written by the student and a reference provided by an individual the applicant selects. As an alternative to the essay, musical and/or dramatic presentations must be provided. These presentations may not exceed five minutes. The Foundation would prefer these presentations on videotape or DVD. Submission of a portfolio (not to exceed 10 pieces on compact disc or digital printouts) of artistic work or composition is also a suitable alternative to the essay. A brief written description including the title(s) of your work, performance or musical composition must also be provided. Please do not submit original art work. Artistic submissions will not be returned.

## DETERMINATION OF FINANCIAL NEED

Since the parent, guardian or students residing at TMO or its affiliate sites must provide a yearly updated financial statement demonstrating their eligibility for continued residency at a site managed by TMO or it's affiliates, this form will be utilized to determine financial need. Gross income of the household of the applicant must fall within the range of Section Eight (8) Income Limits or within the range of affordable housing limits of the county in which the applicant resides. These requirements are not applicable to residents living in military housing managed by The Michaels Organization.

## DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS

Each award will represent a scholarship grant provided to the selected students. These grants should not be mistaken in any way for student loans. While a high school student may apply for consideration for a grant prior to being accepted at a college or trade/professional school, he/she must provide documentation in the form of an admissions acceptance letter to the Foundation before the grant will be finalized. The exact number of awards and the total amount of money to be awarded in 2019 will be determined during the selection process, in the sole discretion of the Foundation.

## PAYMENT OF GRANTS

All grants are made payable to the colleges or other post-secondary institutions where the recipients will attend during the 2019-20 school year. As was previously mentioned, the student must provide the Foundation a copy of an admissions acceptance letter to an accredited school. It is the intent of The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation that the full amount of these grants will be applied toward the recipient's school expenses. We suggest that the recipient contact The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation before accepting any scholarship from the Foundation, if there is any doubt about the continuance of other financial aid, especially need-based scholarships.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

There are four essential parts of this application, and all must be received in order for The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation to consider an application.

The deadline for completed applications is **April 12, 2019**. Please mail Parts I, II, III, and IV (listed below) to Dr. Bruce W. Johnson, The Michaels Organization, 3 East Stow Road, Suite 100, P.O. Box 994, Marlton, New Jersey 08053-0994.

- I. The completed Application Form that contains basic information about the applicant, as well as, the applicant's and parent/guardian statement with signatures.
- II. An official grade transcript that shows the courses you have taken and the grades awarded through the fall semester of the 2018-2019 school year. These transcripts will allow us to evaluate academic performance. College students should request their transcripts no later than March 8, 2019.
- III. Utilize the attached reference form to secure a reference. This reference should come from a person who has first-hand knowledge of your functioning as a student on a regular basis. The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation Scholarship Program assumes that recommendations from teachers, guidance counselors, professors, principals, deans, and/or other school administrators are better indications of a student's future performance in school than personal recommendations. **AS A RESULT, THIS RECOMMENDATION SHOULD COME FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED TYPE INDIVIDUALS. REFERENCES FROM RELATIVES AND PERSONAL REFERENCES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

IV. **Failure to complete the REQUIRED essay portion of the application will DISQUALIFY your eligibility to receive a scholarship award.**

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**REQUIRED ESSAY:**

***We are thinking about your future, show us that you have thought about it too!***

The Michaels Organization Education Foundation is making an investment in YOU. As such, the selection committee would like to gain insight into your story, your motivations and the next steps toward your future.

In an essay of approximately 400 words (typed or neatly printed), please explain specifically:

- ◆ **Your focus:** What will be your major, trade profession or field of study? Why did you choose it?
- ◆ **Your goal:** What will be your objective immediately upon graduation from your program?
- ◆ **Your plan:** What actions will you take to achieve that goal or employment?

**Note:**

Creative alternatives to the essay are also acceptable. Musical and/or dramatic presentations may be provided. This presentation should be five minutes or less in length, preferably submitted on video tape or DVD. Submission of a portfolio or artistic work, not to exceed 10 pieces, is also a suitable alternative to the essay. Please do not submit original art work. Artistic submissions will not be returned. A brief written description including the title(s) of your art work, performance or musical composition must also be provided.

**CONDITIONAL ESSAY:**

***If you have received “D” or “F” grades in the past or withdrawn from a class, please provide an essay of approximately 400 words (typed or neatly printed), to explain specifically:***

- ◆ What happened?
- ◆ What did you learn from it?
- ◆ What has changed or what will you do differently this time?

## NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The selection committee will meet during the month of April. All applicants will be notified by June 5, 2019.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- February 1, 2019** Application forms available at all offices of The Michaels Organization.
- March 8, 2019** Suggested deadline for college students to request grade transcripts from their registrars in order to assure that part of the application will be received by the Foundation prior to April 12, 2019.
- April 12, 2019** **FINAL DEADLINE** for all parts of the application for a 2019 The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation Grant. Mail the application form, references, essay and grade transcripts to Dr. Bruce W. Johnson, The Michaels Organization, 3 East Stow Road, Suite 100, P.O. Box 994, Marlton, New Jersey 08053-0994.
- June 5, 2019** All applicants notified of the outcome status of their application.
- June 25, 2019** Acceptance forms must be returned by this date if grant recipients wish to accept the offer of a scholarship. Grants not accepted by this date will be awarded to other applicants.
- August 7, 2019** Scholarship checks, made payable to post-secondary institutions, will be mailed via U.S. mail directly to the post-secondary institution on behalf of the scholarship recipient to help pay for the student's 2019-20 school year costs.

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS • THE MICHAELS ORGANIZATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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**Michaels**  
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3 East Stow Road, Suite 100 • P.O. Box 994 • Marlton, NJ 08053-0994



**THE MICHAELS ORGANIZATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
2019 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM  
Application Deadline is April 12, 2019**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name, First Name and Middle Initial)

Apartment Community or Military Base \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: XXX-XX- \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Head of Household \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name, First Name)

**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

Institution Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of College, University, or Trade School)

Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_ FR - Soph - JR - SR - Other in Fall 2019: \_\_\_\_\_ *If you are an incoming Freshman, provide:*

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Credits earned as of April 12, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ SAT - Reading & Writing \_\_\_\_\_

Minor \_\_\_\_\_ Credits enrolled Fall 2019 \_\_\_\_\_

Certification \_\_\_\_\_ Credits required to complete program \_\_\_\_\_ SAT - Math \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ ACT Score \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees currently held (excluding high school) \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL AID**

|   |                       |                                  | <b>2019 FAFSA EFC SCORE</b> |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>List all scholarships, work study grants, student loans and any other form of financial aid you have or will receive for the 2019-2020 school year as of April 12, 2019:</i> |                       |                                  |                             |
| <b>Source of Funding</b>  | <b>Effective Date</b> | <b>GPA or other requirement?</b> | <b>Amount</b>               |
| _____   | _____                 | _____                            | _____                       |
| _____   | _____                 | _____                            | _____                       |
| _____   | _____                 | _____                            | _____                       |
| _____   | _____                 | _____                            | _____                       |

**REFERENCE LETTER**

Using the attached form, please provide a reference from a person who has first-hand knowledge of your functioning as a student on a regular basis. References should come from teachers, guidance counselors, principals, deans and other school administrators. **PERSONAL REFERENCES FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**



**THE MICHAELS ORGANIZATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
2019 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM  
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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The Michaels Organization and its affiliates believe in giving back to the communities which it serves. The Foundation is but one manifestation of this philosophy. Just as the Foundation provides scholarships to worthy students as a portion of its commitment to assist the community, the Foundation values community service from students. If you have at any time over the last three years, been of service to the apartment community in which you live, please include relevant information regarding this in your essay. If you have not provided previous service, would you be willing to provide service over the course of the next year to The Michaels Organization community in which you reside. \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
Know that if you are selected, and have indicated a willingness to serve, the Foundation will try to establish a reasonable commitment for community service for you between June, 2019, and June, 2020.

**APPLICANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT**

We have read the instruction sheet and this application form and wish to apply for a Michaels Organization Educational Foundation Scholarship. We agree to comply with all procedures outlined in the application information and we release to The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation, the applicant's academic records.

**PERMISSION TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO DONORS**

The TMO Educational Foundation depends on the generosity of donors to fund our scholarship program. Please check here if you would be willing to share your story, your progress, and your successes with one or more of our donors. \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**PERMISSION TO RELEASE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

As parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby release all necessary financial information on file to The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation for the purpose of determining financial need.

**PERMISSION TO PUBLICIZE NAME AND PHOTOGRAPH**

If I am awarded a scholarship, I give my permission to use my name and/or photograph in publicity releases related to The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation.

**PRIVACY POLICY**

I further agree that, if I am selected as a scholarship recipient, any information provided by me to the Foundation in connection with this application may be used by the Foundation in promoting its purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature  
(only required if applicant is under 18 years of age)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation

## Scholarship Application

Personal Character Reference Form

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Providing Referral: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Person Providing Referral: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number of Person Providing Referral: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of person providing referral on behalf of the applicant (Example: Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Professor, Employer...) \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the most appropriate response for the applicant you are referring and attach a narrative on your letterhead stationary. Please consider each item shown below independently from the others listed.

|                         | Poor |   | Good |   | Outstanding |
|-------------------------|------|---|------|---|-------------|
| Dependability .....     | X    | X | X    | X | X           |
| Honesty .....           | X    | X | X    | X | X           |
| Perseverance .....      | X    | X | X    | X | X           |
| Cognitive Aptitude..... | X    | X | X    | X | X           |
| Conscientiousness.....  | X    | X | X    | X | X           |
| Concern for Others..... | X    | X | X    | X | X           |
| Leadership .....        | X    | X | X    | X | X           |

I attest that the aforementioned reference of \_\_\_\_\_  
is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am not a blood relative of this applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return this form to the applicant for submission prior to **April 12, 2019**, or mail directly to Dr. Bruce W. Johnson, The Michaels Organization, 3 East Stow Road, Suite 100, P.O. Box 994, Marlton, New Jersey 08053-0994.



Please provide a brief narrative of your thoughts regarding the applicant's personal character. Be sure to mention how you came to know the applicant and how long you have been acquainted with the individual. Other information helpful to the Selection Committee would include your perception of the applicant as a student, your belief in the applicant's ability to successfully pursue a college degree, and any unique characteristics the individual may possess.



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