



The Bezos Scholars Program engages exceptional students and educators in a year-long leadership development program that amplifies youth voice and action. Scholars act on their passions and develop sustainable community change projects.

## WE BELIEVE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE:

- **Are exceptional** and have the potential to be leaders.
- **Learn most effectively when engaged** in programs backed by the science of learning.
- **Need to feel a sense of belonging and purpose** to learn, grow, feel safe and take healthy risks.
- **Deserve opportunities** to generate creative ideas, lead and act on issues they care about.
- **Benefit when educators advocate** for youth-led ideas and initiatives.
- **Should have the opportunity to collaborate** with diverse communities and to connect across difference.

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

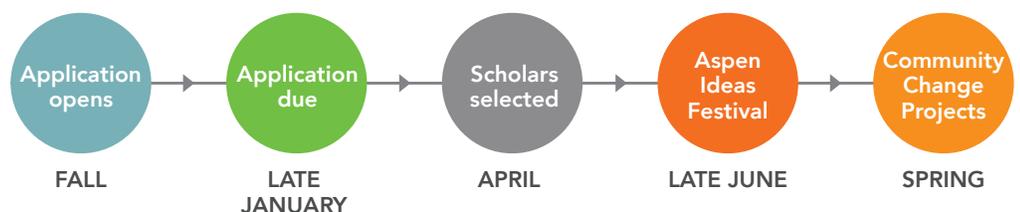
Every year since 2005, 17 exceptional high school juniors and an educator from each of their schools are selected as Bezos Scholars. Scholars are chosen from across the U.S. and from the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa. After spending a week immersed in learning at the Aspen Ideas Festival and meeting with global leaders, Scholars return home to participate in a twelve-month leadership deep dive that culminates in a Local Ideas Festival in their community.

## HOW SELECTION WORKS

High school juniors attending a US public high school with a 30% or higher free and reduced lunch rate are eligible to apply. They share a rich background of identities, experiences and passions for making a difference.

A selection committee of diverse leaders engaged in youth development and education, along with program alumni, evaluate candidates based on leadership qualities, actions already taken, readiness to engage in the program and academic rigor. Once selected, Scholars join a strong alumni network and are offered continued opportunities to connect, collaborate and take action for the greater good.

### TIMELINE



Full eligibility requirements and application information is available online. Learn more at [bezosscholars.org](http://bezosscholars.org) or email [scholars@bezosfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:scholars@bezosfamilyfoundation.org).

# IMPACT

**40+ hours**  
of leadership skill-  
building during the  
year-long program

**176 Local  
Ideas  
Festivals**  
launched

**409 Global  
Network**  
of Bezos Scholar  
Student and  
Educator alumni

**50,000 people**  
have attended Local  
Ideas Festivals across the  
U.S. and in South Africa  
since 2005

*"This was truly a life-changing experience. I left Aspen knowing I now have a family that will always support me, and feeling confident that my fellow Scholars are making a tangible difference in the world."*

—ERIC TRAN  
BEZOS SCHOLAR

*"I am grateful for the Bezos Scholars Program because it forced me to be an active and productive participant in my personal leadership journey."*

—REGINA O'NEAL  
EDUCATOR

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students and educators make gains in these leadership outcomes:



### Agency

Ability to start and sustain goal-directed efforts.



### Civic Engagement

Desire and ability to contribute to one's community.



### Collaboration

Desire and ability to work effectively with others in group processes.



### Leadership Efficacy

One's internal beliefs about their likelihood of success when engaging in leadership processes.



### Navigating Pathways

Ability to envision multiple pathways to achieve goals.



### Social Generativity

Concern for future generations and engagement in actions to advance the future of a community.

## A PROGRAM OF THE BEZOS FAMILY FOUNDATION

Founded in 2005, Bezos Scholars Program is operated and funded by the Bezos Family Foundation, a private, independent foundation based in Seattle. Guided by the belief that all young people deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential and meaningfully contribute to society, the Foundation invests in the science of learning and the experiences that young people from birth through high school need to learn and thrive.



@bezosscholars

bezos *scholars* program