



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

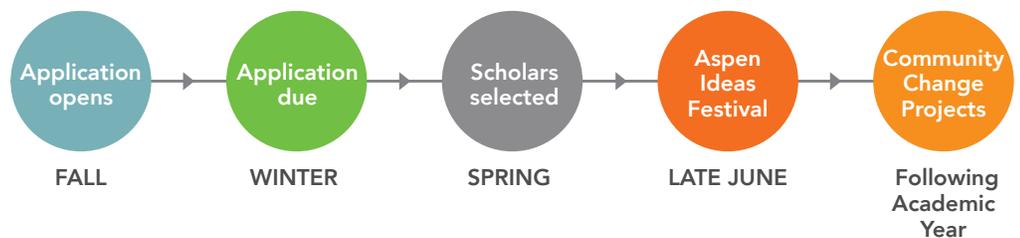
Every year since 2005, 17 exceptional high school juniors and an educator from each of their schools are selected as Bezos Scholars. Scholars are chosen from across the U.S. and from the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa. After spending a week immersed in learning at the Aspen 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

Passionate and intellectually curious juniors attending a US public high with a free and reduced lunch rate of 30% and higher, and who are rising leaders in their communities, 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, demonstrated leadership, 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](https://bezosscholars.org) or email [scholars@bezosfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:scholars@bezosfamilyfoundation.org).

\*Trip plans will be determined closer to the departure date. If we are unable to safely travel, engaging virtual programming will be offered instead.

# IMPACT

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

**175 Local  
Ideas  
Festivals**  
launched

**415 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

*"I am so grateful to have embarked on this leadership journey. It has been a transformational, humanizing, one-of-a-kind experience. I have developed new approaches to friendships, community problem-solving, and team-building."*

—2019 STUDENT SCHOLAR

*"The BSP experience is hands down one of the best programs I have been a part of. It helped me fine tune my organizational skills as a leader, educator, coach, and mentor."*

—2019 EDUCATOR SCHOLAR

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Scholars yield equivalent or higher learning gains across critical leadership and socio-emotional outcomes than their peers did after a full year of college. For more details and to view educator outcomes, please visit the impact page of our website.

Students make gains in the following leadership outcomes:



### Sense of Belonging

The degree to which Scholars feel a sense of affiliation and connection to the program and are able to instill a sense of belonging with others.



### Leadership Efficacy

Internal beliefs about their likelihood of success when engaging in leadership processes.



### Agency

Ability to start and sustain goal-directed efforts.



### Resilience

Ability to persist in the midst of adversity and positively cope with stress.



### Search for Purpose

Meaning-making grounded in the exploration of life's deeper purpose.



### Collaboration

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



### Navigating Pathways

Ability to envision multiple pathways to achieve goals.



### Civic Impact

Taking actions to leave a legacy and enhance the community beyond yourself.

## 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.



@bezoscholars

bezos *scholars* program