

A person with dark, curly hair is seen from the back, looking out over a lush green landscape with a lake and mountains in the distance. They are wearing a dark blue crewneck sweatshirt. On the back of the sweatshirt is a large orange circle. The words "bezos scholars program" are printed across the circle and the sweatshirt. "bezos" is in white script, "scholars" is in orange script, and "program" is in white script.

bezos scholars program

**Become the LEADER
we NEED**

30 Scholars are selected each year!

- **12 student Scholars** from **public high schools** across the U.S.
- **5 student Scholars** from the **African Leadership Academy** in South Africa.
- **13 Educator Scholars**, trusted school staff members **nominated by their students**, fully participate in the program alongside them.
- Scholars participate from **April of the student's junior year to May of their senior year** of high school.
- Scholars **design and implement a Community Change Project** in their community.



Bezos Scholars Program

A transformative year-long, no-cost leadership development program.



Community Change Projects

Community Change Projects are **fresh and sustainable approaches** to meeting community needs.

- **Build a project team** while developing leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.
- **Design and lead a project** that addresses a need in your community.
- **Receive \$1,000 in grant funding**, renewable annually, to support your project which is carried forward by new student leaders.
- **Celebrate your impact** through a virtual showcase with supporters, partners, friends, and family.



"BSP gave me my first chance to connect beyond my hometown, building comfort with relationships across difference. Through my Scholar Project, I expanded my network, gained new opportunities, and deepened my connection to where I grew up."

— Sean Ashburn, Student Scholar Alum

Who are Bezos Scholars?

Scholars reflect the talent, potential, and leadership present in every community, **coming from cities, towns, and rural communities** across the **United States and Africa**.

Scholars are:

- Passionate, curious, and eager to learn
- Emerging leaders in their schools and communities
- Motivated students and dedicated educators
- Collaborative and relationship-oriented
- Willing to step outside their comfort zones
- Ready to embrace challenges and grow through them

Why Apply?

- Form **lasting friendships** across the U.S. and Africa.
- Experience an **all-expenses-paid trip** to Aspen, Colorado.
- Engage in virtual **leadership skill-building** sessions.
- Access **supportive coaching** from peers and staff.
- Receive **free personalized college advising** for an entire year.
- **Earn \$1,000** to launch a Community Change Project.



"BSP opened up the world for me and gave me a sense of perspective. The broader awareness and long-term vision I formed is a foundational part of the personal and professional journeys I continue today."

— Perry Arrasmith, Student Scholar Alum

Who is eligible?

A current school staff member, in any position, who works at a student's school.

Educator nominees CANNOT also be an applicant's parent, guardian, relative or their paid private tutor or counselor.

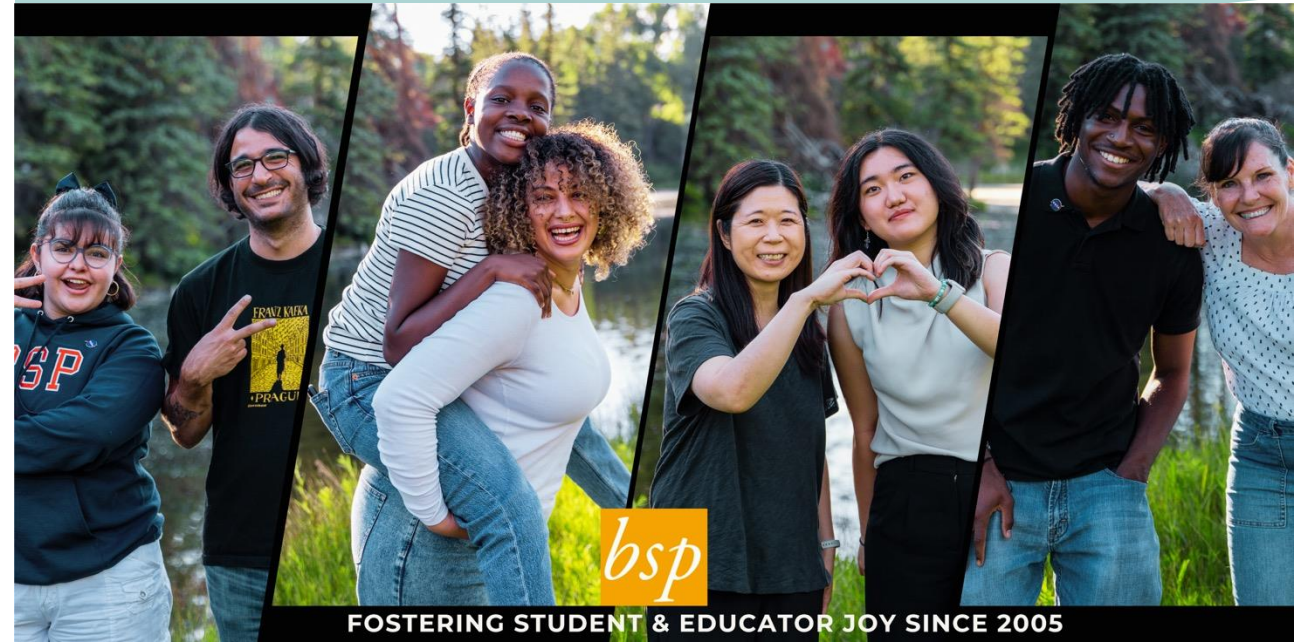
An Ideal Educator Scholar:

- Believes in student voice, leadership, and youth-led change.
- Models curiosity, learning, and growth.
- Cultivates strong relationships and meaningful partnerships.
- Encourages creativity, innovation, and problem-solving.
- Has the time and commitment to support students throughout the project journey.
- Fully engages in all aspects of the yearlong program, including Aspen, workshops, coaching, and key milestones.

Educator Nominees

Students are required to nominate a trusted adult from their school who can fully participate in the yearlong program alongside them.

Educators travel to Aspen with their students and mentor student leaders as they launch their Community Change Project.



Commitment

Over the course of a year, Scholars spend **10 hours per month on program activities**, with commitments **increasing to 20 hours per month** during Community Change Project development and implementation.

This includes:

- Participating in two 2.5-hour **virtual Saturday workshops** each month, along with team meetings and assignments.
- **Spending a week** learning and connecting with their cohort **in Aspen, Colorado**, at the end of June.
- **Engaging with community members** to better understand local problems and needs and identify a project focus.
- **Building a diverse team** of students and adult supporters who will help you develop and launch a sustainable, student-led project.

Scholars will need regular internet access throughout the program year. If home internet is limited, applicants should consider whether reliable access is available through a school, library, or community space.

Become The Leader We Need

bezos scholars program





Throughout the program, **students build their confidence and capacity** in the following:



Sense of belonging

Connection to the program and ability to instill it in others.



Agency

Ability to start and sustain goal-directed efforts.



Purpose

Explore what gives your life meaning and align it with your choices.



Navigating pathways

Ability to envision multiple ways to achieve a goal.



Leadership efficacy

Belief in their ability to succeed as a leader.



Resilience

Ability to persist through challenges and cope with stress in healthy ways.



Collaboration

Desire and ability to work effectively with others.



Civic impact

Ability to take action to positively impact your community.

Leadership Learning Outcomes

For Students

- **Leadership growth** equal to or greater than a full year of college
- **Develop leadership skills** 3x faster than peers
 - Scholars have +20% average growth across leadership, collaboration, and resilience learning outcomes
 - They experience significant growth in civic impact, with a 40% increase in their belief in and ability to make a positive difference in their communities.

For Educators

The program experience builds or strengthens their ability to:

- Support students in strengthening their leadership skills, resilience, and sense of purpose
- Elevate student voice, agency, and action
- Support students in turning ideas into impact

Impact

Being a Scholar has transformed my personal and professional life. I feel energized, confident, and prepared to continue my career as a teacher and leader because of the opportunities provided.
— Natalie Davis, 2021 Educator Scholar



Eligibility Criteria for U.S. Students

- Attend an **eligible public high school** that meets *one or more* of the following criteria:
 - At least 30% of the school's students qualify for free or reduced lunch
 - The school is designated as a Title I school.
 - The state has identified the school as economically underserved; it meets the threshold for a state or district "high need".
- Be a **junior** at the time they are applying to the program.
- Have a **minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0**.
- Have taken or be enrolled in **at least one advanced course** (Honors, AP, IB, or dual enrollment).
- Can **fully participate in the year-long program** and attend all dates for the trip in Aspen in late June.
- **Nominate an educator**, a supportive adult from their school who is willing to fully participate in the yearlong program and go on the Aspen trip with them.

In partnership with the program, African Leadership Academy students apply through a process run by their school.

How To Apply

Applications open Nov. 19 and close Jan. 12, 2027!



Applications are available online at
www.bezosscholars.org/apply



Students select a trusted adult from their school to serve as their educator nominee who also completes a recommendation form.



Students must submit a completed application by the deadline.

Application Components:

- Personal contact and demographic information.
- General school information and information on 4 classes that challenged them, at least 1 being an advanced course.
- Information about 2 extracurricular activities they currently participate in that are meaningful to them.
- A one-minute self-recorded video on why they want to become a Bezos Scholar.
- 3 short written essay responses.
- Completed educator nominee recommendation form.



Founded in 2005, the Bezos Scholars Program is operated and funded by the Bezos Family Foundation a private, independent foundation based in Seattle, WA.

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.

Learn more at www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org