

Arthur J. and Elizabeth Ritch Trust
Rules Governing Scholarship Applications

The Arthur J. and Elizabeth W. Ritch Trust awards scholarships, each year, to graduating seniors from Lewis County High Schools, who intend to pursue post-secondary education/training in Washington State. The Trust can award an amount up to the equivalent of undergraduate tuition costs at the University of Washington. The award is based on each applicant's unique circumstances and takes into consideration financial need and merit factors. The award is for the academic year immediately following high school and is non-renewable.

1. The completed application must be received or post marked by **May 4, 2026**, of the applicant's senior year of High School.
2. Scholarship award money **must be used in the academic year following graduation** or shall be returned to the Arthur J. and Elizabeth W. Ritch Trust. Checks will be made payable to the students and the institution in which they are enrolled.
3. The applicant must be enrolled at least half-time in a college or vocational training program.
4. Decisions regarding qualification for a scholarship will be at the sole discretion of Security State Bank Trust Department, Trustee.
5. **BEFORE THE APPLICANT CAN RECEIVE CONSIDERATION**, the following documents must be received by **GESA TRUST SERVICES**.
 - (a) A completed **Scholarship Application**.
 - (b) Proof of **Financial Need**: copy of Student Aid Report or financial aid award package from attending school.
 - (c) Copies of **Official School Transcript** and **SAT/ACT** scores (if applicable)
 - (d) **Personal Essay**: please write, and attach, a short essay describing your financial hardship, challenges you've overcome, future educational goals, and how you plan to achieve them. Include any information you think might help the Trustee reach a decision.
6. All documents, transcripts and correspondence received pertaining to the scholarship applications become the property of the Arthur J. and Elizabeth W. Ritch Trust and will not be returned.
7. **Mail or deliver to:** Arthur J. and Elizabeth W. Ritch Trust
c/o Gesa Trust Services
1930 S. Gold Street
PO Box 1050
Centralia, WA 98531