



For Samantha Foundation *Scholarship* **Information**

For Samantha, Inc. is a not for profit corporation and shall operate exclusively for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



For Samantha Inc. was formed to honor the life of our beloved Samantha Spano who lost her life to suicide in March of 2017. The Foundation's most loving and meaningful intent is to grant scholarships on behalf and in memory of Samantha.

A limited number of scholarships will be presented to graduating high school seniors who exemplify outstanding character, based on the information submitted in this application including character recommendations. Applications will be reviewed and winners will be chosen by the For Samantha Scholarship Team.

Qualifications are as follows:

- Student must be a United States citizen.
- Student must be a graduating high school senior.
- Student must have been accepted by and plan to attend an institution of higher learning (university, college, community college, trade school) within the United States of America.
- This scholarship is **NOT** based on grade point average.

The 2026 scholarship applications must be received by the Foundation
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026.

The following must be submitted:

1. Scholarship Application completed in its entirety – including the prompt.
2. One character recommendation letter from a school individual on school letterhead.
3. Copy of an acceptance letter to an institution of higher learning (university, college, community college, trade school, vocational school), even if you have not made a final decision.
4. Please **DO NOT** send transcripts or report cards.

****ONLY HARD COPIES OF APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED****

Please MAIL the completed application to:

For Samantha Inc.

PO Box 525

Bolingbrook, IL 60440



For Samantha Foundation *Scholarship* **Frequently Asked Questions**

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WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The dollar amount and the number of scholarships vary from year to year depending on the amount raised from fundraising events and other donations collected throughout the year. This year each recipient will be granted **a minimum, one time, \$1,000 award** to be used at the college, university, trade or vocational school of their choosing. The number of recipients has not been determined.

In addition to the dollar amount, the scholarship recipient(s) will receive

- Two (2) complimentary tickets to the For Samantha Benefit - travel and lodging NOT included. The 2026 benefit, will be held on August 8, 2026 in Merrionette Park, IL.
- A For Samantha T-shirt.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION?

The 2026 scholarship applications must be received by the Foundation by **Wednesday, April 1, 2026.**

SHOULD I "OVER NIGHT" MY APPLICATION TO THE FOUNDATION?

Please DO NOT spend extra money on mailing your application. It is NOT NECESSARY. As long as your submission is post marked by **April 1, 2026**, we will accept it!

WHY DOES THE FOUNDATION REQUIRE ONLY HARD COPIES OF MY APPLICATION?

For Samantha Inc. is a small foundation. As you can imagine, the cost of printing could become astronomical. We prefer to use our funds to grant more scholarships. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

WHERE DO I SEND MY COMPLETED APPLICATION?

Send your application to:

For Samantha Inc.
PO BOX 525
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

WHEN WILL THE WINNERS BE NOTIFIED?

Reviewing the applications is very time consuming, however, it is the Foundation's goal to announce winners on or about April 16, 2026. Winners will be notified personally by a For Samantha Inc. board member. The winner's names will then be posted on the Foundation's website, as well as, social media sites. You may refer to the website for any updated information – www.forsamantha.org. Information will also be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

WILL I BE NOTIFIED THAT MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED?

The Foundation receives many, many applications so it is not feasible for us to verify if applications have been received. If you have a concern, you can send an inquiry to forsamanthainc@gmail.com.

I HAVEN'T RECEIVED A COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE LETTER FROM MY FIRST CHOICE OR I HAVEN'T MADE A FINAL DECISION ON WHAT COLLEGE I PLAN TO ATTEND? At the time of application, we do not need to know your final choice of college, we just need verification that you have been accepted by and plan to attend an institution of higher learning (university, college, community college, trade school, vocational school) within the United States of America. We will confirm your choice of school before awarding the scholarships.

I DO NOT LIVE IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. AM STILL ABLE TO APPLY EVEN THOUGH I DO NOT LIVE IN THE AREA? Absolutely! The scholarship application is open to qualifying students regardless of geographical location in the United States. The requirements for the application are included in the instructions.

I AM CURRENTLY NOT A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR. CAN I STILL APPLY?

At the current time, the For Samantha Scholarship is only open to current high school seniors who will be attending a college as a first year Freshman in the Fall of 2026.

HOW DO I COMPLETE THE PROMPT? Your submission must take the form of one of the following:

Video - submitted via YouTube, TikTok or Instagram – Limit to 4 minutes - Follow directions below.

A hard copy of the completed application still needs to be mailed to the Foundation.

Essay - NO more than 250 words – you may include pictures.

Drawing or Painting – Must relate to prompt. We cannot return art work.

If you'd like, you can send a picture of your work.

**** PROMPT: COMPLETE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS. DOCUMENT YOUR EXPERIENCE****

****ALL SUBMISSIONS REQUIRE A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF THE ACT OF KINDNESS!****

★ If you are submitting by YouTube, please provide link by sending it to our email - forsamanthainc@gmail.com. Include your name in the email.

★ **OR** follow these directions to submit using TikTok or Instagram:

In the caption, include this statement -

**My name is _____ and this is my submission for the
2026 For Samantha scholarship #forsamantha2026**

Your first and last name and the hashtag must be included or we will not be able to view.

On Instagram you can also tag our page @forsamanthainc. The statement and the hashtag must still be added. Include a clear description of your random act of kindness. All work must be your own AND must be created specifically for this scholarship!

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST: (no need to return checklist to the Foundation)

___ Scholarship Application completed in its entirety.

___ The completed prompt – remember to follow the guidelines above.

___ One letter of recommendation from a school individual on school letterhead.

___ Copy of acceptance letter from an institution of higher learning (university, college, community college, trade school), even if you have not made a final decision.

DO NOT SEND TRANSCRIPTS OR REPORT CARDS.

THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS NOT BASED ON GRADE POINT AVERAGE.

If you have a question, not answered above, feel free to email the Foundation at:

forsamanthainc@gmail.com

Samantha's family, friends and the For Samantha Foundation thank you for completing this Scholarship Application! Best of luck to everyone!



For Samantha Foundation
Scholarship
Application

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING IN ITS ENTIRETY. ANY APPLICATION WITH MISSING INFORMATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY. IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED, A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER MAY BE USED.

DATE: _____ **T-SHIRT SIZE:** _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ **ARE YOU A UNITED STATES CITIZEN?:** _____

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN: _____

SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: _____

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR TELEPHONE: _____

DATE OF GRADUATION: _____

COLLEGE ACCEPTED TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

INTENDED MAJOR OF STUDY: _____

COMMUNITY AND/OR OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU ARE INVOLVED IN...OR ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

★ **PROMPT: COMPLETE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS. DOCUMENT YOUR EXPERIENCE.** ★

YOUR SUBMISSION MUST TAKE THE FORM OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. **VIDEO – (YouTube, TikTok, Instagram) - LIMIT TO 4 MINUTES - FOLLOW DIRECTIONS BELOW**
2. **ESSAY - (with or without photos) NO MORE THAN 250 WORDS.**
3. **DRAWING OR PAINTING – MUST RELATE TO PROMPT – WE CANNOT RETURN ARTWORK. IF YOU’D LIKE, YOU CAN SEND A PICTURE OF YOUR WORK.**

**NO MATTER WHICH FORM YOU CHOOSE,
YOU MUST INCLUDE A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF YOUR RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS!**

★ **IF SUBMITTING A VIDEO VIA YOUTUBE, PROVIDE THE LINK BY EMAILING IT TO FORSAMANTHAINC@GMAIL.COM INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN THE EMAIL!**

★ **OR FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS FOR TIKTOK OR INSTAGRAM:
IN THE CAPTION, INCLUDE THIS STATEMENT:**

**“MY NAME IS _____ AND THIS IS MY SUBMISSION FOR THE
2026 FOR SAMANTHA SCHOLARSHIP #FORSAMANTHA2026”.**

**YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME AND THE HASHTAG MUST BE INCLUDED OR WE WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO VIEW IT. ON INSTRAGRAM, YOU CAN ALSO TAG OUR PAGE
@FORSAMANTHAINC. THE STATEMENT AND THE HASHTAG MUST STILL BE INCLUDED.**

**IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING A VIDEO,
A HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION STILL NEEDS TO BE MAILED.**

**WORK MUST BE YOUR OWN AND MUST BE CREATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP!
WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX TO COMPLETE THE PROMPT
MORE CREATIVELY.**

MY SUBMISSION IS IN THE FORM OF _____

(Please indicate if you are submitting a video through YouTube, TikTok, or Instagram. REMEMBER to email the link to the Foundation!)

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____