Bonner Scholars Program Application

The Bonner Scholars Program is a vehicle allowing students to dedicate themselves not only to service, but to making connections between community experiences and academic pursuits. The program is designed to identify qualified, service-oriented students and provide financial assistance commensurate to student need as defined by the Estimated Family contribution (EFC) on the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). This enables selected students to serve others, while receiving leadership development training, academic support and enrichment opportunities to encourage their success at Spelman and completion of requirements to earn their college degrees. The program provides a structured developmental progression to encourage students to develop leadership ability and expertise that can be applied to a chosen career path. A student who takes part in the Bonner Scholars Program must be willing and able to make a significant commitment to service and community engagement throughout their college career. Bonner Scholars commit to carry out an average of ten hours of service per week during the school year for four years, perform at least two full-time summers of service, and participate in trainings and meetings as required. In return, students receive individualized financial aid to help with college expenses and a network of support.

DEADLINE: February 1, 2021.

ELEGIBILITY:

- Demonstrated passion for civic engagement and community service
- Acceptance to Spelman College Class of 2025**
- Financial need as demonstrated by an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of $10,000 or less***
- Submitted a Federal Application for Student Financial Aid (FASFA)****

NOTES:

*Applications submitted without a letter of acceptance from the Spelman College Office of Admissions will not be read.

**Students interested in applying for the Bonner Scholars Program should apply to Spelman during the Early Decision period (November 1st application deadline with December 15th notification) or Early Action period (November 15th deadline with December 31st notification).

***The Bonner Scholars Program was created to provide college access for students who could not otherwise afford it. In recognition of this intent the majority of students admitted to each cohort will have an EFC of $10,000 or less. There are a limited number of spots in each cohort for students who have EFCs exceeding this amount. Applications submitted without a copy of a financial aid letter from Spelman College will not be read.

**** Applications submitted without a copy of the FASFA Student Aid Report (SAR) will not be read.

This pdf is not an official application form.
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Use this information as a guide to prepare your answers before beginning to submit an online application. Submission of applications by mail, email, or fax should only occur if there is a barrier preventing you, or your reference, from using the online form. Please do not submit additional copies by mail, email, or fax if your electronic submission is successful.

Mail: Spelman College Bonner Office of Civic Engagement 350 Spelman Lane SW Box1543 Atlanta, GA 30314-4399 Fax: Spelman College Office of Civic Engagement Fax number: (404) 270-5308

E-mail: Spelman College Bonner Office of Civic Engagement civicengagement@spelman.edu Email submissions should be sent as attachments in Microsoft Word (.doc), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.

Application Details

Contact Information

Name of applicant: ________________________________________________
Home Address: ________________________________________________
High School: ________________________________________________
Date of Birth: ________________________________________________
Email Address: ________________________________________________
Telephone number (s): ________________________________________________

Short Answer Questions

The following questions are designed to give you an opportunity to relate experiences that qualify you to be a Bonner Scholar. Answer each question fully and concisely.

1. In prospective Bonner Scholars, we look for committed individuals who have shown dedication to activities of importance in their lives whether or not they have had the opportunity to participate in service or volunteer activities. Please briefly list the service, family, school, religious, and/or work responsibilities you have been most committed to. Specify the activities, positions held/major duties, and length/frequency of commitments. If you have relatively little involvement with service, please explain the responsibilities, circumstances or choices that have contributed to this.

2. Describe in detail one service, family, school, or work activity listed in Question 1 to which you’ve felt most committed. How is/was it meaningful to you?

3. Bonner Scholars value diversity of all kinds in their program and service work. Please describe an experience you’ve had that has made you more aware of the diversity in our world. What makes this particular experience important? What did you learn from it?
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4. The Bonner Scholars Program is founded on the belief that students can change the world through service. Describe a problem or issue that you feel is particularly urgent in your community and/or in today’s society at large. Explain why you chose this issue or problem.

5. How do you personally define service? What are your primary motivations for doing service and for being a Bonner Scholar?

6. We receive numerous applications for the 20 Bonner Scholar positions in each Spelman class. What will you bring or contribute to the Spelman College Bonner Scholar community and to your community service activity?

7. How do you think being a Bonner Scholar will contribute to your college experience and connect with your academics and/or life outside of classes?

8. In the Bonner Scholars Program, we value relationships. The ability to resolve conflict is an important part of building and maintaining healthy relationships. When you think about conflict resolution, how would you rate your present skills in handling situations where there is disagreement? Please give an example that illustrates your team/group problem-solving skills when faced with a challenge, issue, conflict, or dispute in a school, service, or workplace setting.

9. As a Bonner Scholar, you will be serving alongside fellow students who have likewise dedicated themselves to engaging with communities in Metro-Atlanta and beyond. Collaboration among Bonner Scholars is key to fostering Bonner Scholars Program mission of civic engagement. Describe an experience working in a group or team. How did your efforts contribute to the achievement of collective goals? Did the group encounter conflict? How did you work through it? What role did you play?

10. Describe any experience you have had serving as a mentor or tutor.

Please upload the following documents:
- Acceptance Letter from Spelman College
- Financial Aid letter from Spelman College
- High School Transcript including the fall 2020 semester (unofficial copy is acceptable)
- 2 Letters of Recommendations. 1 letter should be from a teacher or school official and the second should be from a supervisor at a community site where you have engaged in service.