

## 2011 Wanda Alston and Cheryl Spector Memorial Scholarships

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### 1. About Youth Pride Alliance

Youth Pride Alliance (YPA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1996. Its primary function is the annual production of Youth Pride Day. Youth Pride Alliance is directed by an all volunteer Board of Directors, which draws on the resources of the Metro D.C. area to support the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (GLBTQQ) youth communities.

YPA is proud to sponsor two scholarships in memoriam of Wanda Alston and Cheryl Spector. Wanda Alston dedicated twenty years of service to the National Organization for Women (NOW) and before she was taken away from the community, Wanda was appointed the head of the D.C.'s Office of LGBT Affairs. The second scholarship pays tribute to Cheryl Ann Spector who spent over twenty years attending and videotaping virtually every significant GLBT event in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Cheryl's passion and commitment was to political advocacy as well as to cultural understanding and before she was taken away by Leukemia Cheryl volunteers for Rainbow History Project and served on the Board of Directors.

Additionally, the applicants must demonstrate financial need.

For more information about these community activists, please see our website at [www.youthpridedc.org/2011/scholarship.html](http://www.youthpridedc.org/2011/scholarship.html)

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### 2. Program Prospectus

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize leaders, activists, and community organizers who have demonstrated exemplary community activism in the service of the GLBTQQ communities. This one-time scholarship will be awarded directly to the winner to help defray the cost of tuition and/or living expenses.

#### **Eligibility**

The Scholarships are open to all people at any educational level. Eligibility is restricted to those residing in the District of Columbia Metropolitan area (i.e. Arlington County, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County). While enrollment to an institution of higher education is not required, it is strongly encouraged.

## **Application**

Applications must be postmarked by August 1, 2011 for the Wanda Alston Scholarship and September 15, 2011 for the Cheryl Spector Scholarship. Applications received after the postmarked date, or received through e-mail will not be reviewed. Scholarship winners will be notified by August 31, 2011 and October 15, 2011 respectively. All other applicants will be notified by e-mail. Applicants must apply to each scholarship separately. Rejected applications for one scholarship will not be automatically considered for the other. **Applicants must submit an original and two copies of the completed application form.** The original and each copy of the application form must be accompanied by the following:

- a. A completed Financial Need Worksheet. (See document for further details.)
- b. A written narrative of no more than 750 words addressing the applicant's background, career objectives, and scope of participation and leadership in activities, which promote the cause of GLBTQQ rights and freedoms. The narrative must also address how this scholarship will help fulfill the applicant's professional goals as an activist or as a community leader. Examples of how the applicant has made a discernible difference in their community for GLBTQQ rights and freedoms will be of particular interest to the selection committee. **Essays must be attached on another sheet, typed, double-spaced and in 12 point Times New Roman or Garamond font.**
- c. A résumé describing the applicant's work experience, extracurricular activities, honors, national or international group memberships, leadership positions, and major accomplishments. Use and attach the resume as a separate sheet.
- d. Applicants for the Wanda Alston Memorial Scholarship must submit (2) two letters of recommendation. Only (1) one recommendation is required for the Cheryl Spector scholarship. The recommendations should be from someone the applicant has worked closely with and is familiar with the applicant's ability as an activist, leader, or organizer. See the recommendation form for further details. It would be wise for applicants to discuss particular points their recommender will write in their recommendation. Letters must be signed, dated, on letterhead, and sealed in an envelope.
- e. A transcript from all institutions the applicant has attended. An unofficial transcript is acceptable, however applicants must furnish an official transcript if they are awarded a scholarship.
- f. Supporting documentation or materials (i.e., videotapes, pamphlets, news clippings), which provide evidence of the abilities of the applicant are strongly

encouraged, but not required. **Note: supporting documentations or materials will not be returned unless the applicant supplies a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.**

Additionally, applicants for both scholarships must enclose a recent photograph, suitable for reproduction. If you are awarded a scholarship, the photograph will be used for publicity purposes. Place the photograph in an envelope with your name written on the back of the photograph and on the outside of the envelope.

If you would like confirmation of us receiving your application packet, you can enclose a pre-stamped self-addressed card, which we can send to you once we've opened the applications.

Please send the applications packets through the U.S. Postal Service. Do not use carriers such as UPS or FedEx. They only delay receiving your application, as we cannot stand in a line to sign off on your application package.

### **The Award**

A selection committee constituted by the YPA shall review and consider all qualified applications and recommend candidates to the YPA Board of Directors for final decisions. The Wanda Alston scholarship is non-recurring and will be made in the amount of \$1000. The Cheryl Spector scholarship, also non-recurring, will be made in the amount of \$1000. Winners are strongly encouraged to re-apply the following year.

**Application packets for the Wanda Alston Scholarship should be mailed to the following address:**

Youth Pride Alliance  
P.O. Box 33161  
Washington, D.C. 20033  
Attn: WA Scholarship Committee

**Application packets for the Cheryl Spector Scholarship should be mailed to the following address:**

Youth Pride Alliance  
PO Box 12196  
Washington, DC 20005  
Attn: CS Scholarship Committee

**Please address any questions or concerns for either scholarship to Nikisha Carpenter at [ncarpenter@youthpridealliance.org](mailto:ncarpenter@youthpridealliance.org)**



P.O. Box 33161  
Washington, DC 20033  
(202) 387-4141  
www.youthpridedc.org

## 2011 Wanda Alston and Cheryl Spector Memorial Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. Who does the Youth Pride Alliance Scholarship support?**

The Scholarship supports any person within the D.C. metropolitan area that is actively engaged in social justice organizing for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning communities (GLBTQQ). Additionally, the scholarship aims to reward students who demonstrate financial need. College enrollment is not a criterion for eligibility, however previous academic achievement will be taken into account.

### **2. If I tell you about the type of work I am doing or my specific activities, will you tell me if I should apply?**

No, you will have to decide that for yourself. The selection committee is interested in seeing a variety of social justice oriented activities for the GLBTQQ community.

### **3. What if I am not active in the movement for social change but I hope to become involved soon?**

Having a proven track record in GLBTQQ community leadership and activism is essential to the scholarships purpose. Applications without that experience will not be given full consideration.

### **4. I'm pretty confident in my activities, but how do I know if I qualify for financial need? How much does the selection committee put on financial need than on social activism?**

Every applicant is different so financial need varies from student to student. Consequently, we cannot give a straight answer on qualifying for financial need. However, do not let your financial situation deter you from applying. The selection committee does not weigh one criterion more than the other. We would like to help those who are financially in need, but also have demonstrated leadership in the cause of the GLBTQQ communities.

### **5. Will I need to send in any supplemental financial information regarding my and my family's ability to pay for my education?**

Yes. We will ask scholarship winners to furnish us with a Student Aid Report (SAR) from their FAFSA application to verify their financial need status. If no SAR report is available, a 2010 Income Tax report will suffice.

### **6. Do I have to be LGBT to apply?**

Identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer (GLBTQ) is not an eligibility requirement. However, regardless of sexual orientation, all applicants must show a history of leadership in GLBTQ activism and community organizing.

### **7. Do I have to be openly gay or transgender with my family to qualify for a scholarship?**

No, you don't have to be "out" to apply. Remember that our focus is on your leadership skills and social justice activities. If you are selected for a scholarship, we will need your photo for publicity purposes.

### **8. I am still in high school, but I am taking college courses. Can I apply for a grant for these courses?**

Yes.

### **9. I am taking a year off from school to do field work. Can I get a grant for my living expenses for this period?**

Yes, if you prove your fieldwork complements the mission and purpose of the scholarship.

**10. I don't need money for school, but the community organization I am involved with needs money to pay me for organizing. Can my organization or I get a grant for that purpose?**

Yes. The purpose of the award is to encourage applicants to continue their work as community organizers.

**11. Is US citizenship required?**

No, however there is a strong interest among the selection committee to award the scholarship to leaders and activists who have created a strong movement for GLBTQQ causes here in the United States.

**12. Can I apply for a scholarship if I am taking a year to study abroad?**

Yes, provided that the money is used to pay for tuition and/or living expenses abroad. You may be asked to submit documentation proving enrollment in a study abroad program. Keep in mind however that the scholarship is intended to support activists and community leaders so that they may continue to do their work. The Youth Pride Alliance strongly encourages students to study abroad, however applicants must show that they continue their activism and leadership in their study abroad destination.

**13. I am a graduate student. Can I apply?**

Yes, people at all educational levels are eligible to apply.

**14. What are the application deadlines?**

Applications must be postmarked no later than August 1, 2011 for Wanda Alston Scholarship and September 15, 2011 for the Cheryl Spector Scholarship. Winners will be invited to Youth Pride Day 2012 where they will be officially recognized for their superior efforts. For more information about Youth Pride Day, please go to [www.youthpridealliance.org](http://www.youthpridealliance.org).

**15. I am an applicant and have not heard from Youth Pride Alliance. Will you please let me know if you have received my application?**

In your application, you can enclose a pre-stamped, self-addressed 3.5" x 5" post card, which we will send it out once we've opened your application package. Applicants selected to receive the scholarship will find out by April 16<sup>th</sup>. All other applicants will be contacted via e-mail.

**16. What if my Teacher/Professor won't have my letter of recommendation done before the application deadline?**

All applications and accompanying materials must be completed by the deadline. It is your responsibility to follow up with the professor or educational institution.

**17. How can I get more information about the Youth Pride Alliance?**

You can find more information about the Youth Pride Alliance at [www.youthpridedc.org](http://www.youthpridedc.org).

**18. Whom do I contact?**

Please send questions or concerns to Nikisha Carpenter [ncarpenter@youthpridealliance.org](mailto:ncarpenter@youthpridealliance.org) via e-mail.

**19. Can I fax my application?**

No. All applications must be submitted in paper. Please see program prospectus for more information.