



Mary Ann Becker Memorial/Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County POLONIA PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP

For the 2026-2027 academic year, one (1) \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to a student who is a Berks County resident and who can provide evidence that he/she is of Polish descent.

First year college "non-renewable" scholarship is available to high school seniors pursuing their studies in an accredited post-secondary educational institution in either a two or four-year program.

Criteria for award include:

- HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RESIDING IN BERKS COUNTY
- OFFICIAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT INCLUDING GPA TO VERIFY AT LEAST A 3.0 (B) AVERAGE OR EQUIVALENT AT TIME OF APPLICATION
- PROOF OF POLISH DESCENT (Use *copies* of documents such as birth certificates, passports, naturalization papers and other official documents to trace your lineage to the ancestor who was born in Poland. Highlight relevant names and arrange in chronological order. Suggestions: Try Ancestry.com or the Reading Family History Center, 3344 Reading Crest Drive, Reading – by appointment)
- COMPLETION OF ENTIRE APPLICATION INCLUDING ALL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS
- STUDENTS PERSONAL PROFILE ESSAY WHICH INCLUDES ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACTIVITIES IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL, AND FUTURE GOALS, INCLUDING HOW YOU CELEBRATE YOUR POLISH HERITAGE
- SUBMISSION OF A PROJECT BASED ON POLISH HISTORY, CULTURE AND /OR TRADITIONS. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE THEIR POLISH HERITAGE AND "THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX." THE PROJECT WILL BE AT THE STUDENT'S CHOICE BUT MUST BE INCLUSIVE OF ALL MATERIALS, MUST BE SELF SUFFICIENT AND BE IN ITS' ENTIRETY WHEN DELIVERED TO THE PAHABC CULTURAL CENTER FOR DISPLAY. PROJECT WILL BE JUDGED ON CONTENT, NEATNESS, ACCURACY AND AUTHENTICITY
- WRITTEN NARRATIVE WHY YOU CHOSE THE SUBJECT OF YOUR PROJECT
- STUDENT AWARDEE AND/OR THEIR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT THE AWARD AT THE POLISH AMERICAN BOARD OF EDUCATION LUNCHEON ON APRIL 12, 2026
- **ONE VISIT TO THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER BY THE STUDENT AWARDEE AND ONE VOLUNTEER SUNDAY BY STUDENT AWARDEE AND/OR PARENT(S) WILL BE EXPECTED**

Applications for this scholarship are available at Berks County high schools' guidance offices, by contacting Mr. Chris Curtis at ccurtis1721@comcast.net, in the Polish-American Cultural Center when open (Sunday, Noon-4pm).

Questions regarding the scholarship guidelines may be directed to Mr. Curtis at 484-256-9603.

DEADLINE: The project must be received in its' entirety, including all required documents, in the PAHABC Cultural Center at the GoggleWorks, 201 Washington Street, Room 509, Reading, PA 19601 by Sunday, March 15, 2026. No project will be accepted after that date. ***Announcement of this award will be made by the end of March, 2026. The scholarship money will be forwarded to the student upon receipt of tuition payment for the Fall semester.***

MARY ANN BECKER MEMORIAL/POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION OF BERKS COUNTY (PAHABC) POLONIA PROJECT
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ TEL # _____

NON-SCHOOL E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED _____

DATES ATTENDED _____ CURRICULUM _____

I PLAN ON ATTENDING _____ FOR A _____ YEAR DEGREE MAJORING IN
_____.

FATHER'S NAME _____ NATIONALITY _____

MOTHER'S NAME _____ NATIONALITY _____

(MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME) _____

PARENT PHONE NO. & E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

WE HEREBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICANT SIGNATURE *DATE* *PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE* *DATE*

.....
TO BE COMPLETED BY CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES:

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THE ABOVE-NAMED APPLICANT FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP. HIS/HER CLASS STANDING IS

_____ OF A CLASS SIZE OF _____

DATE *SIGNATURE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR* *DATE* *SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL*