



The Laura Smither Scholarship
... a merit based scholarship

History

The Laura Smither Scholarship was created in memory of Laura Kate Smither. Laura's passion for life was reflected in her love of ballet, girl scouts, scuba diving, learning, and devotion to her family. Laura was born in Houston on April 23, 1984 and moved to Friendswood with her family in 1990.

She attended a private school in Houston for kindergarten and first grade and then attended Cline Primary, Westwood Elementary, and Bales Intermediate in the Friendswood Independent School District and participated in the District's gifted and talented program. She attended Grace Christian School for her first year in Junior High and when she was accepted into the Houston Ballet Academy her family decided to homeschool her. Homeschooling allowed Laura the time to pursue her other interests and she took advantage of this flexibility to become a certified scuba diver, take up tennis, and work toward her silver award in Scouting.

Laura was gentle, considerate, responsible, highly intelligent, and loved to laugh. She was, and remains to those who knew her, a most remarkable child, student, friend, and person. Laura was abducted and murdered on April 3, 1997 at the age of 12, before many of her dreams and aspirations could be realized. It is hoped that this scholarship will help the recipient to fulfill their dreams and aspirations.

Eligibility

The applicant must have graduated from high school and have been a resident of Friendswood throughout their high school career. The student may have attended any private school, Friendswood High School, Clear Brook High School, or have been homeschooled.

Applicants may have traveled or have been involved in other than academic pursuits during the year prior to application for this scholarship.

Requirement for Scholarship

The Laura Smither Scholarship is based exclusively on merit.

Applicants should submit a completed application form, addressed to the Scholarship Committee, by March 31. The form should detail the applicant's community and volunteer activities. In addition, the applicant will prepare a 200 to 500 word essay outlining the student's dreams and aspirations as they relate to a college education, career, and future plans.

Applicants should submit test scores for a recent SAT or ACT exam, two letters of reference, a high school transcript (optional), and proof of 4 year residence in Friendswood (i.e. utility bills).

Applicant may be called for an interview.

Award

The Scholarship is in the amount of \$3,000.00 for payment of tuition, fees, and books at any college or university. The Scholarship Committee will send a Notice of Award to the recipient on or before April 30. Notice concerning the manner in which the scholarship award will be presented will be included at this time.

Application

All applications must be received by March 31. Application should be mailed to:

The Laura Smither Scholarship Committee
2600 Ware Dairy Road
Friendswood, Texas 77546

