



Ahead With Education

Sponsor Information and FAQ's

OUR GOAL: To contribute to the education of economically challenged students in Rio Bravo, Mexico, equipping them to be productive members of their community.

HOW CAN I BECOME A SPONSOR? Our program is based on the concept of “sponsorships” in order to encourage relationships that both further the student’s sense of accountability for completing their education, and deepen the donor’s sense of commitment to maintain support for a sustained period of time. To become a sponsor, complete the *Sponsor Covenant or GROUP Sponsor Covenant*, (see **FORMS** below) and submit it to AWE. Students already in the AWE Scholarship program who need a supplemental or replacement sponsor will be matched to any new sponsors first. AWE student/sponsor matching activities occur between June 1st and July 31st. New sponsors will be notified as quickly as possible regarding students accepted in the program.

Notices and communication with sponsors can be in the form of Email, posted letters, text messages and phone calls. We try to reach out to all of the sponsors at least two times a year. We will send pictures, grade reports and photographs of their students when possible.

CAN I NOMINATE A STUDENT? Yes! All children deserve an opportunity and you are a part of our scholar identification process. AWE appreciates your passion to help provide an education to the children you meet.

HOW DO I NOMINATE A STUDENT? Encourage the family to fill out and submit a *Family Contact Form* (see **FORMS** below). The *Family Contact Form* is the first step in the nomination process. The Program Coordinator uses this data to interview the family and collect additional information. During the

interview, the Program Coordinator will provide the scholarship application to the family. It is the family’s responsibility to then complete the application and agree to support their child in reaching his/her educational goals. **Please note:** Applying does not mean a student will receive a scholarship, but they can’t be considered if they don’t apply.

WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE? April 1st. Applications received by this deadline are reviewed for the upcoming school year that begins in August.

WHEN ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED? Applications are reviewed between April 15th and July 1st. Not all applicants receive scholarships. Selection criteria include degree of need, school performance, family support for the student’s educational goals, and sponsor availability. Our policy is that students already in the program are fully supported by available sponsors before new scholarships are awarded. AWE commits to supporting a student from their acceptance into the scholarship program through their College Diploma, as long as they continue to meet the minimum criteria to remain eligible.

CAN I SPONSOR MORE THAN ONE CHILD? Absolutely! There is no limit to the number of children a family, individual, or group can sponsor.

DOES AWE SPONSOR SIBLINGS? Student applications are considered for only one student per family, except for special circumstances where the Program Coordinator believes siblings can be awarded scholarships.



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WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD THE INCREASE IN EXPECTED DONATION WHEN STUDENT ADVANCES TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL? Once a student is awarded a scholarship, AWE commits to support that child as far as their educational aspirations take them (ideally through college diploma), provided the student continues to meet grade and attendance requirements. We ask sponsors to make the same commitment, even if it becomes necessary to combine financial resources amongst the pool of sponsors in order to support the student as he/she advances in higher education. Please ask about co-sponsorship before deciding to no longer sponsor.

IS MY CONTRIBUTION TAX DEDUCTIBLE? Yes. AWE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, EIN 45-3298400. Contributions qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes for those who itemize. Under IRS regulations, however, contributions earmarked for a specific individual are NOT tax deductible. In order to reconcile these competing objectives (promoting student/sponsor relationships yet maintaining tax deductibility of ALL donations), we operate according to the following policies:

AWE retains full control of the donated funds and discretion as to their use (an IRS requirement). This means that if a student withdraws from the program or fails to qualify for scholarship renewal,

contributions are not returned to the donor but are applied to assist another student in the scholarship program.

AWE seeks to apply 100% of sponsorship contributions toward student scholarships.

WHEN IS MY DONATION DUE? July 1st of each year in order to have funds for distribution by mid-August.

WILL I HEAR DIRECTLY FROM STUDENT(S)? AWE seeks to correspond with sponsors at least twice a year for some grade levels. AWE will forward any student correspondence to the sponsor as quickly as possible. AWE will attempt to Email, call, text and post notes and letters to sponsors as needed.

FORMS: Print AWE forms from our website, aheadwitheducation.org/forms, or ask any AWE Board Member or Mission Team Leader. You may also write to us by Email at aheadwitheducation@gmail.com or by letter to 200 Turkey Creek Dr., Ponca City, OK 74604. Please note, AWE prefers to respond to any correspondence by Email because it's much less labor intensive to our all-volunteer organization and is cost efficient.

To submit completed forms, (1) send by mail, or (2) scan and send by email, or (3) hand deliver to any AWE Board Member or Mission Team Leader.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED DONATION AMOUNTS FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL CURRENTLY?

Level in School	AWE Scholarship Contribution
Elementary School (Primaria)	\$150 / Year
Jr. High School (Secundaria)	\$180 / Year
High School (Prepa)	\$360 / Year
College (Universidad)	\$720 / Year
Diploma (transcription of diploma)	Variable, up to \$720