



**Association of Vietnamese Americans, Inc.
Hội Người Mỹ Gốc Việt**



8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 503
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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*Selected as "one of
the best small
charities in the
Greater Washington
Region"*

2017 AVA Scholarship Announcement

About the Association of Vietnamese Americans

The Association of Vietnamese Americans (AVA), formerly known as Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association (MVMA), founded in 1979, was incorporated in 1982 as a tax-exempt non-profit organization to address the needs of refugees after the Vietnam War. AVA is the oldest Vietnamese American community-based organization in Maryland. We are dedicated to advancing the Vietnamese American community in Maryland through direct services, advocacy, and education. Today, our mission is to:

- **empower** low-income families and seniors through direct services and referrals;
- **advocate** for social and economic equality by building awareness, capacity, and solidarity within the community; and
- **unify** multiple generations of Vietnamese Americans and the larger community.

To continue the tradition of community advancement, AVA initiated a Scholarship Program in 2000 and organized the Annual Academic Awards Picnic to celebrate Vietnamese American students' success. This year, scholarship applicants and their families are invited to attend the:

AVA 18th Annual Academic Awards Ceremony
Bohrer Park, Park Pavilion
506 South Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Sunday, June 04, 2017 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

AVA Scholarship Information

AVA scholarships are designed to help ambitious & hardworking Vietnamese American students who lack the financial resources to achieve their educational goals. Many individuals, organizations, and businesses have contributed generously to this worthy cause. **Two (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded to two (2) outstanding students this year.**

Qualifications

Any Vietnamese American graduating from high school and residing in Maryland, who is enrolled as a first year student at a university, college, or vocational school in the Fall of 2017 may apply to the AVA College Scholarship Program. The application form follows below and is

also available on AVA's website at www.AVAUS.org , under the Archives menu. **The scholarship recipients will be required to participate in at least one AVA community activity or outreach event in the upcoming academic year.**

Submission Requirements & Deadline

Interested students are urged to submit their COMPLETE Scholarship Application Package **no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 24, 2017.** An original, signed application along with the COMPLETED checklist for the required supporting documentation (i.e., official transcript, personal essay, and letters of recommendation) must be received by the due date. Scholarship winners will be notified by telephone and/or email by Wednesday, May 31, 2017.

Application packages may be mailed, or emailed, to the following addresses:

Association of Vietnamese Americans
ATTN: Academic Awards Nomination
8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 503
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Email: awardspicnic@mdvietmutual.org

In order to receive their awards, scholarship recipients and their families are required to attend the:

AVA 18th Annual Academic Awards Ceremony
Bohrer Park, Park Pavilion
506 South Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Sunday, June 04, 2017 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Event Photography and Videography

Note that pictures will be taken and posted on the AVA website, and as such, we request that you dress in business-casual attire. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us via email at awardspicnic@mdvietmutual.org or via phone at 301-588-6862 .

Since AVA intends to post photos and videos of the event online and make use of them in our marketing materials, attendants of the awards ceremony and community picnic are requested to review and sign the enclosed Photography Release forms.

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Scholarship Application

Last Name:		First Name:		MI:
Home Address:				Apt No:
City:		State:	Zip Code:	
Home Phone:			Work/Cell Phone:	
Email Address:				
High School Attended:			Last 4 SSN:	
Date of Graduation:			GPA:	
University/College/Trade School Name & Location:				
List any community service activity, volunteer work, leadership experience, etc. in which you have been involved.				
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Personal Essay

Please, write a 500-650 word essay on a separate sheet of paper that addresses the following three (3) questions.

- 1) How have your life experiences inspired you to pursue higher education?
- 2) How will your attendance at university, college, or trade school improve your life and your community?

3) In what ways will the AVA Scholarship assist in the achievement of your educational goals?

Application Package

Include the following items with your COMPLETE Scholarship Application Package.
(All MUST be checked.)

COMPLETED AVA Scholarship Application Form	
Personal Essay (See above for content criteria.)	
Official High School Transcript	
Copy of SAT Scores	
Copy of Financial Aid Form (FAFSA)	
Copy of Financial Aid Award Letters from university, college, trade school (if available)	
Letters of Acceptance from university, college, or trade school (if available)	
Two (2) Letters of Recommendation (from teachers, coaches, tutors, community leaders, employers, etc. – not from family or relatives)	

Student Signature:	Date:
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