

NEWS

2022 Scholarship Season Dates and Deadlines

Nomination Deadline
December 17, 2021

Application Deadline
January 14, 2022

**Teacher Recommendation
Deadline**
January 21, 2022

**Principal Verification
Deadline**
January 21, 2022

Notification
March 2022

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Reading Is

Reading is a portal to another dimension
As blinding as shining baubles
Like burrowing for diamonds in the rough [Read more ...](#)

National Day of Reading

The Carson Scholars Fund's National Day of Reading, celebrated on Monday, November 15 by reading room schools across the United States [Read more ...](#)

Year End Giving

Year-end is a time of reflection, hope and giving. It is also one of the most important times of the year for a non-profit. [Read more ...](#)

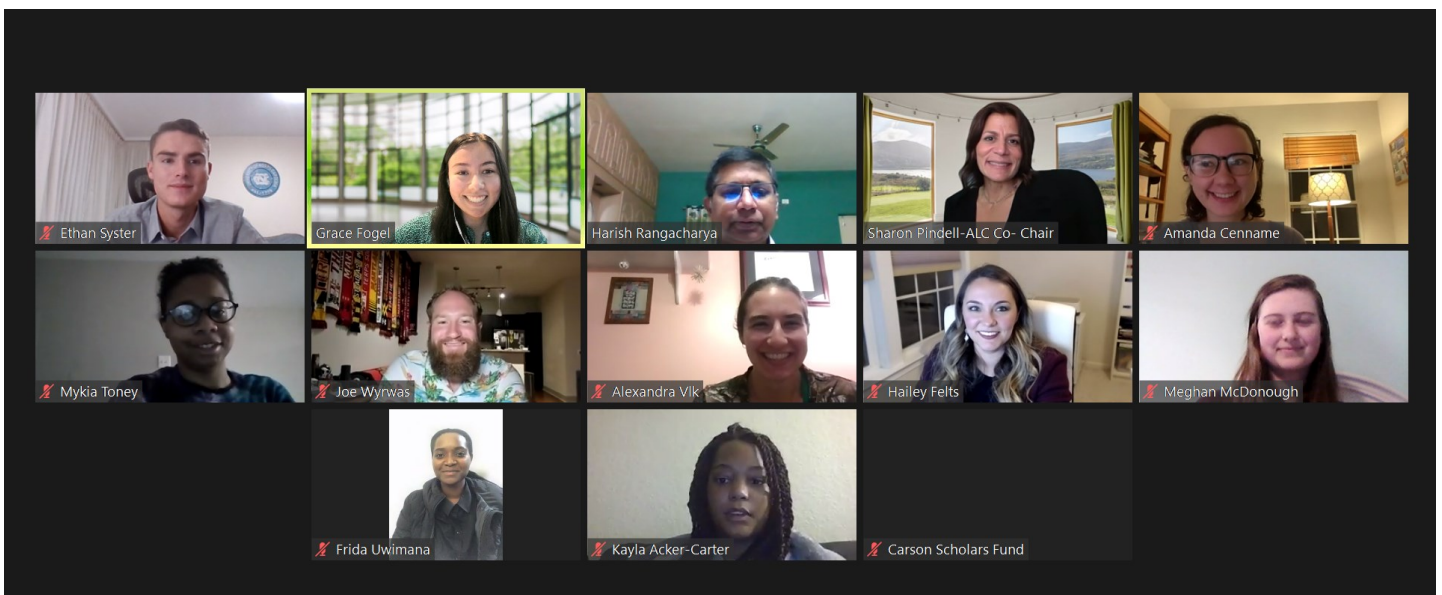


ALC Update

In September 2020, a dynamic group of professionals joined together to form the first ever CSF Associate Leadership Council (ALC). The group was assembled based on recommendations by board members, alumni scholars, and friends and associates of the CSF. After establishing leadership positions, the group went right to work with the focus on fundraising and alumni engagement. Several scholarships have been funded to date, a quarterly newsletter has been established with the hopes of providing alumni with a forum to share opinions, develop professional networking opportunities and to provide resources for current and future scholars. A resume hub was one of the first concepts to take hold and is available to scholars and alumni to provide guidance as scholars build their resumes and seek employment.

Co-chair Tony Kelley, shared in the first newsletter: "Our vision is simple yet brazen: We understand how critically important it is for us to not only engage, but involve, CSF alumni in our plans to 'THINK BIG' and bring innovation and different yet concerted backgrounds to the Carson Scholars Fund mission."

On November 18, 2021, the group hosted the first ever CSF virtual alumni networking event. The enthusiastic response by those who participated was exciting. The ALC is working to host some live events as well as continue with the virtual format.



We know many of you will be working on your applications over the next few weeks.

We are here to answer your application questions. Please email info@carsonscholars.org with your questions and we will do our very best to answer them within 48 hours.

6th Annual Pittsburgh Charity Golf Tournament

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, the Pittsburgh Chapter, led by President Fran Donahue, hosted their 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, PA. Bordered by The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Laurel Lake Nature Preserve, Laurel Valley is known for its challenging course and breathtaking views. Dr. Carson and supporters of the CSF participated in the fundraiser to benefit the Pittsburgh Chapter. The fundraiser, along with chapter support, raised \$72,000 to benefit Pittsburgh area scholars. To date, there are 789 Pittsburgh Chapter sponsored scholars.

Dinner and Conversation with the Carsons

On Saturday, November 6, 2021, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the CSF hosted an intimate dinner fundraiser at The Ritz-Carlton Naples in Naples, FL. All proceeds from the event benefited the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Carson Scholars Fund.

During the event, Dr. Carson spoke about the effects of COVID-19 on national health and education. The evening allowed for an intimate conversation between Dr. Carson and guests, with about 40 supporters and friends of the CSF in attendance.

This event was organized by longtime CSF supporter and president of the Pittsburgh CSF Chapter, Fran Donahue. Her commitment to recognizing and rewarding students who excel academically and philanthropically in the Pittsburgh area is truly inspiring.

The Pittsburgh Chapter was established in 2004 and has supported a total of 789 scholars. In 2021, the chapter celebrated 48 new scholars and 108 recognized scholars.

The CSF could not be more thankful for the support of the Pittsburgh Chapter. The bright and compassionate 2021 Pittsburgh area Carson Scholars are certainly using their intellect and kindness to make the world a better place!



25th Anniversary Virtual Scholar Awards Ceremony

The Carson Scholars Fund's 25th Anniversary Virtual Scholar Awards Ceremony was certainly an event to remember. During the week of October 25th, 2021, new and recognized Carson Scholars were celebrated amongst their families, educators and friends as they gathered to watch the awards ceremony.

The theme of the ceremony was "The Best is Yet to Come!" Carson Scholars have already accomplished amazing things, and they continue to make the world a better place through their intelligence, talent and compassion for others.

It was an honor to hear from two very special guests at the virtual ceremony – first ever TIME magazine Kid of the Year and 3-time Carson Scholar Gitanjali Rao and legendary college football coach Lou Holtz. Gitanjali spoke on the power of knowledge and encouraged scholars to use their gifts to improve the lives of others. Lou Holtz offered practical ways to achieve success by discussing his three rules for life.

Another highlight of the event was the scholar talent videos, featuring 163 of this year's Carson Scholars. From soccer trick shots to speaking French to playing the bagpipes, one thing is for sure – Carson Scholars' got talent!

The audience also had the privilege of viewing an exclusive video featuring several of our accomplished alumni. These individuals have gone from learners in their classrooms to leaders in their career fields. They are opening doors for current Carson Scholars to become doctors, teachers, authors, engineers and more.

Dr. Carson gave a special keynote address at the ceremony. He encouraged scholars to couple their intelligence with courage to stand up for what is right and make a positive impact on the world.

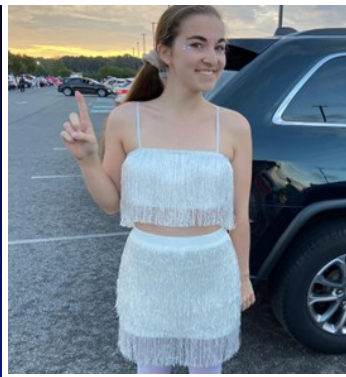
Lastly and most importantly, pictures of the 2021 new and recognized Carson Scholars were displayed on the screen for all of their friends, families, educators and supporters to see. This moment was significant because a key part of our mission is to recognize students who excel academically and serve their communities. 2021 Carson Scholars are not only meeting the requirements of this scholarship, but they are going above and beyond to make a lasting impact on the world.

We couldn't be more proud of this group of scholars. They have persevered through a difficult year and continue to remind us that the best is yet to come!



Spirit Week Recap

Leading up to the premiere of the virtual ceremony, we hosted our first ever CSF Spirit Week! Our staff picked themes and Carson Scholars posted pictures of their spirit wear on social media. The five most spirited scholars won a \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Check out some of our favorites below!



Palm Beach Fundraiser

On Monday, November 8, Julio Gonzalez of Engineered Tax Services – The Growth Partnership – ABLE CRM, hosted a dinner in support of the CSF at the beautiful Brazilian Court located in Palm Beach, FL. Dr. and Mrs. Carson spoke with the attendees and introduced the mission of the CSF. Proceeds generated from the event will support the Palm Beach Chapter. The Palm Beach County Chapter, under the direction of Sande Constantine and Linda Stoch, has worked to help fund 24 Palm Beach County reading rooms and, to date, have funded 55 scholarships including the 10,000th scholarship award recipient, DJ Blake from Northboro Elementary School.



Reading Is — The SEED School of Miami

Reading is a portal to another dimension
As blinding as shining baubles
Like burrowing for diamonds in the rough
We searched and a treasure opened up.

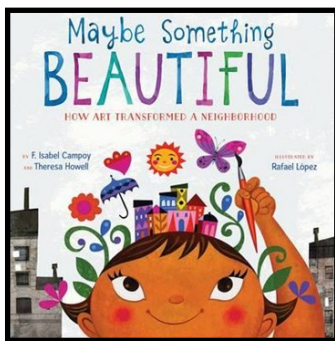
It involves emotions you never knew you had
As you read you have a barrage of emotion like a kaleidoscope erupting
Reading is discovering the unknown and making it known
Opening your soul and mind
Accepting new ideas, no matter how crazy it seems at the time.

It is about learning and passing down what has been wrote
To ensure future generations have not written themselves in a death note.
It is about relations and having fun.
Being present and taking note about what was wrote.

So, open up a book
Adventures are inside
Find a good one
Nuzzle and hide.

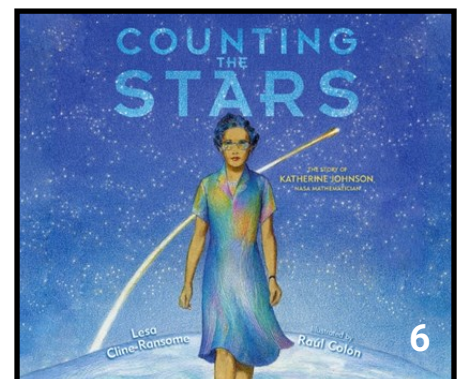
16th Annual National Day of Reading

Sponsored by the William and Winifred Freeman Foundation



The Carson Scholars Fund's National Day of Reading, celebrated on Monday, November 15 by reading room schools across the United States, focuses on the importance of daily leisure reading. The event, first held in 2005 and sponsored this year by the William and Winifred Freeman Foundation, kicked-off with a special video greeting from Dr. and Mrs. Carson. During the salutation, Dr. Carson shared his boyhood journey from struggling reader to reading enthusiast and Mrs. Carson encouraged children to flex their literacy muscles and reading frequency. This year's National Day of Reading event featured two exciting nonfiction video

narrations: "Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood" by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, and "Counting the Stars: The Story of Katherine Johnson, NASA Mathematician" by Lesa Cline-Ransome. "Maybe Something Beautiful" is a testament of how art can transform lives and bring people together and "Counting the Stars" tells the inspiring story of mathematical genius Katherine Johnson. In addition to the book narrations, reading room school partners were treated to a copy of the children's biography "You Should Meet Katherine Johnson."



Year End Giving

Year-end is a time of reflection, hope and giving. It is also one of the most important times of the year for a non-profit. Most donations to non-profits occur in the last three months of the year, but 30% of all annual donations are made in December.

For the Carson Scholars Fund, this trend is no different. Year-end giving is a critical time for fundraising. As you plan your year-end giving choices, please consider making a gift to the CSF to support our missions: The Carson Scholarship Program and The Ben Carson/Think Big Reading Project.

For 25 years, the CSF has been making a difference in children's lives. As we look to the next 25 years, we believe investing in the choices youth make to focus on success through education and compassionate acts will be critical to the overall success of future generations.

As we look forward, we are focusing on the infinite possibilities that will be available to our scholars in the future. The world is changing exponentially. As our scholar's transition from learners to leaders, we have no doubt they will be prepared to accept the challenge. Afterall, our scholars have infinitude: the quality of having no limit. We continue to strive to have a Carson Scholar in every school in the country. They will be the role models who lead their peers to follow suit and prosper. We will continue to share their stories with you as you are the reason we have the privilege of recognizing and rewarding their efforts.

Giving Tuesday Recap

On November 30, 2021, the CSF participated in #GivingTuesday, a Global Day of Giving. Two generous donors provided a match to encourage the expansion of our scholarship program. Due to the match, ten new scholarships were created for the 2022 scholarship season. \$23,070 was raised overall to support our programs. Thank you to all who participated. Because of your generosity, ten new scholars will be awarded and recognized in 2022.

Year-End Giving

As the calendar rolls over each year, we each must look within to determine what we value, how we want to prioritize and whose lives will we impact with our actions in the future. We hope as you make your resolutions and consider gifting, whether for tax purposes, or just to participate in this season of giving, you will consider supporting youth education through the CSF.

Several things to consider:

- 90 cents of every dollar donated goes towards funding our programs.
- In order to have your donation applied to the 2021 tax year, it must be postmarked by or received in our office no later than December 31, 2021.
- If you have questions regarding a stock exchange or QCD, please contact your advisor to make sure the appropriate steps are taken to enact this exchange to qualify for the 2021 tax year.
- Please consider monthly giving. It is a great opportunity to give all year.

Thank you for your generosity and support! As you entrust us to carry out these valuable missions and help future generations succeed, we are humbled and honored to continue to strive to meet your expectations.