

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Simple Gifts Fund Guidelines

Eligibility

The Simple Gifts Fund will support the participation by young people (ages 8 to 21) who are residents of the Berkshire Taconic region* in summer enrichment programs for cultural or creative endeavors.

It is up to you, the applicant, to make the case that the program you want to participate in will offer you an opportunity to explore new ventures. For example, you might request funds to do an internship with a theater company, learn a new language or experiment in a new art form.

Your request might be for the cost of tuition, equipment/supplies or travel/living expenses: these grants are intended to make it possible for you to participate in a program that will have significance to you in some way.

Awards

Generally the awards will be from \$200-\$800. Payments will be made directly to the organization or vendor. Recipients will be required to send a letter to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation about their experiences by September 30.

Deadline

Completed applications must be received at Berkshire Taconic by 5 p.m., April 16th.

To Apply

Complete the attached application form.

Notification

Applicants will be informed of Berkshire Taconic's decision within four weeks of the deadline date.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by members of the Simple Gifts Fund Scholarship Committee. Their recommendations will be reviewed by Berkshire Taconic's board of directors.

Review Criteria

- The quality of the enrichment program that you have chosen.
- The potential impact of the program on your life and studies/work.
- Evidence of your ambition to pursue your studies/work through engagement in this enrichment program.

Questions

Please contact Maeve O'Dea, program director at 413.528.8039 or by email at maeve@berkshiretaconic.org.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

271 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230-1972

T: 413.528.8039 F: 413.528.8158 E: info@berkshiretaconic.org www.berkshiretaconic.org

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation builds stronger, more vibrant communities and improves the quality of life for all residents of Berkshire County, MA; Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT. Since 1987, we have been an agent for positive change in the region we serve. In education, health care, basic human services, transportation, the arts, youth and senior programs—our grants touch all aspects of life and every person in the Berkshire Taconic region. Each year, we help thousands of donors achieve their philanthropic goals and hundreds of nonprofits carry on their good work. Berkshire Taconic is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and is proud to serve as steward for this fund.

About Bill Crofut

Bill Crofut was a folk singer who brought his talent into the world of international exchange with music. He had an unusual career and an unusual life, traveling and sharing his passion for music with others.

In the last months of his life he made an extraordinary CD, “Dancing on a Moonbeam.” It is his gift of music to raise money for the Simple Gifts Fund at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. This final work fulfills a vision of Bill’s life – to make a recording with some of the many artists he worked with during a long and illustrious career and give the proceeds to aspiring young people.

Bill had deep understanding and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals. He knew that even small amounts of money could help someone to purchase an instrument, study dance, participate in a summer program. He loved to foster those small steps to further great passions.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established at Berkshire Taconic in 1998.

Berkshire Taconic Region

The region served by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation consists of Berkshire, Columbia, northeast Dutchess* and northwest Litchfield** counties.

* refers to Amenia, Dover, Northeast (Millerton), Pine Plains, Stanford and Washington (Millbrook).

** refers to Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Litchfield, Norfolk, Sharon, Salisbury/Lakeville and Winchester (Winsted).

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Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Simple Gifts Fund Scholarship Application
Check List for Applicants

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Please use this checklist to help you keep track of the four documents needed for a complete application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. **Applications must be received at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation by 5 p.m., April 16.**

_____ *Application Form (page one)*

_____ *Student Statement (page two)*

_____ *Letter of Recommendation (page three)*

_____ *Brochure from the program you wish to attend*

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Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Simple Gifts Fund Scholarship

Application Form

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Father's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Name of school you are attending currently: _____ Grade and Age: _____

School's Address: _____

Name of enrichment program for which you are seeking financial assistance: _____

Dates of the Program: _____

Full Cost of Program: _____

Scholarship Amount Requested: _____

Please indicate the amount of money your parents/guardians and you will contribute to the cost of this program:

Have you received any other form of financial assistance for this program? If yes, please indicate the organization and amount received:

Have you applied to any other organizations for financial assistance? If yes, please list the organizations:

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Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Statement

Please use this sheet to tell us about your hopes for this experience including why this program is meaningful to you. The Simple Gifts Fund requires this statement to be written by the student applicant.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Letter of Recommendation*

Application Deadline: must be received at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation by 5 p.m., April 16.

Name of applicant: _____

Please use this page for a letter of recommendation from a teacher or professional in the field you are planning to study. *Verbal recommendations will **not** be accepted.*
You may continue on the back if more space is needed.

Name of person making recommendation: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Daytime telephone: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____ How long have you known the applicant? _____

*Letters of recommendation may be enclosed with the student application or mailed directly to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

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