

Elizabeth D. Gaines and  
Katherine G. Steele Scholarship

2025 Application Form  
Due Date: March 31, 2025



Administered by a Scholarship Committee of  
the First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla, Alaska  
Applications available from counselors or at  
[www.firstpreswasilla.org](http://www.firstpreswasilla.org)

## **Introduction**

In 1955, two Arkansas teachers decided to make a change. They packed all their belongings in a half-ton pickup truck and began their 4,000-mile journey to Alaska. They settled in Palmer and taught there for over twenty years. After retirement, the women stayed in the area they had come to love so much. Before Miss Gaines' death in 1998, they decided they wanted to give back to the community. They arranged to establish a permanent scholarship fund and have it administered by the First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla. The arrangements were finalized in 1999, and the first scholarships were awarded in 2000. In the fall of 2004, Miss Steele passed away. The Scholarship Committee is honored to continue the legacy of these two Christian women.

## **Qualifications**

- Applicants must be residents of the Mat-Su Valley.
- Applicants must be members of an established Christian church.
- Applicants must express their loyalty to the United States and be willing to uphold its laws.
- Applicants must be of good moral character, be drug free, and have no police record.
- Applicants graduating from high school should be in the top 25% of their graduating high school class. Applicants already in college should have an academic record showing progress towards successful degree completion.
- Applicants must be recent graduates of a Mat-Su Valley school or within five years of that graduation.
- Recipients must enroll in a trade, technical or vocational school, or in a college or university degree program.
- Recipients must carry at least a full-time course load for the duration of the academic year.

## **Award Distribution**

- The Elizabeth D. Gaines and Katherine G. Steele Scholarship Committee will award one or more scholarships annually each in an amount not less than \$2,000. Scholarship recipients will be announced no later than May 30 of each scholarship year.
- Proof of college/school acceptance and enrollment, including student ID number, must be submitted prior to award disbursement. Disbursement of the award will be made by mid-August through the Registrar's Office.

## **Application Deadline**

Completed applications must be delivered/mailed to the church office, open Tuesday – Friday from 10-2, or postmarked no later than **March 31, 2025.**

## **Application – Personal Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College/Tech School \_\_\_\_\_

College/Tech School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Minister/Priest Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Certification:**

I certify that:

- I meet all of the qualifications,
- that my answers to the preceding questions are true and correct,
- that I understand that any false answers or omission on this application may be grounds for rejection of this application and withdrawal of any award granted,
- that I am a person of good moral character, am drug free, and have no police record,
- that I am loyal to the United States and will uphold its laws.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Application – Scholarship Requirements**

1. \_\_\_\_ Fully complete the scholarship application for the current year. A new application is required for each award year. Applications must be complete to be reviewed by the Committee.
2. \_\_\_\_ Complete the required essay. The essay must be TYPED and three (3) to five (5) pages in length and must address one of the following topics:

***Should humans colonize Mars? If so, would you go as a colonist? Why or why not?***

***If you could choose a wildly impractical career path – regardless of your skill set, the potential pay, or the likelihood of success - what would it be? Discuss.***

***If you could re-direct the future of your town, what would you do? What would you change?***

The purpose of the essay is to demonstrate your writing ability and to get to know you as a person. The Committee places great weight on the essay. Grammar, formatting, and writing style will be highly scrutinized.

3. \_\_\_\_ Tell us about what you are going to study. This can be an essay or something more creative. If you write an essay, it must be TYPED and NO MORE than 1 page.
4. \_\_\_\_ Enclose 3 dated letters of recommendation less than one-year old attesting to your scholastic qualifications, faith, and church membership. It is okay if the recommendation was written for another purpose (such as admission to your school), but it should be appropriate in nature to this application. Include:
  - a) one from a teacher or counselor,
  - b) one from your minister, priest, or other church official,
  - c) and one from a community member.
5. \_\_\_\_ Attach all recent high school, college, and/or university transcripts.

6. \_\_\_\_ Attach a letter of acceptance or a recent registration receipt from your school, college, or university. A screenshot is acceptable.

7. \_\_\_\_ Submit the completed application and all supporting materials by the deadline – **March 31, 2025**, to:

**Gaines & Steele**  
**Scholarship Committee**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**1375 East Bogard Road**  
**Wasilla, AK 99654-6524**

**QUESTIONS?**

**Call Julie at 509-280-1708**