

Ready to begin a new life?



Since 1972, the Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Awards*® program has disbursed more than \$49 million to tens of thousands of women who have overcome poverty, domestic and sexual violence, divorce, the death of a spouse, or other life challenges. They are women—just like you—who had the courage and determination to turn their lives around.

live
YOUR
dream

education & training awards for women®

Recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, including books, childcare and transportation. The program begins on the club-level, where award amounts vary. Club recipients become eligible to receive region-level awards, which are granted throughout Soroptimist's countries and territories. Currently, each Soroptimist region grants one first-place award for \$5,000.

Most regions grant additional \$3,000 awards. The first-place recipients then become eligible for one of three \$10,000 finalist awards.

Soroptimist also offers awards through its headquarters office to applicants who do not live near a Soroptimist club.

Each year more than \$2 million is awarded through the Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Awards* program.



powered by volunteers of
SOROPTIMIST®



empowered by activists of
LIVEYOURDREAM.ORG®

Deadline: Applications are due each year by **November 15**. Award recipients will be notified between January and June. Not all applicants will be selected for awards. Applications can only be submitted to one club. Your application will be reviewed by a panel of judges, but all information will remain confidential.

Step 1: Determine if you are eligible

You are eligible if you are a woman who:

- Provides the primary financial support for yourself and your dependents. Dependents can include children, spouse, partner, siblings and/or parents.
- Has financial need.
- Is enrolled in or has been accepted to a high school equivalency, a vocational/skills training, or an undergraduate degree program.
- Is motivated to achieve your education and career goals.
- Resides in one of Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.'s member countries/territories (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guam, Guyana, Honduras, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, Northern Mariana Islands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela).
- Has not previously been the recipient of a *Soroptimist Women's Opportunity* or *Live Your Dream Award*.
- Does not have a graduate degree and is not pursuing one currently.
- Is not a Soroptimist member, an employee of Soroptimist International of the Americas® or immediate family of either.
- Will complete all written sections in your own words, reflecting your real experiences and goals. AI tools may help with grammar or organization, but your story must be your own.

Step 2: Review Privacy Statement

I understand that Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. ("Soroptimist") will collect the information set out in this application, and any other information I may have provided in support of this application, for the purposes of evaluating my eligibility for a *Live Your Dream Award*.

Soroptimist may also use my contact information to communicate with me, including to send follow-up emails to award recipients.

Soroptimist may also combine my information with that of other applicants in aggregate, anonymous form for the purpose of evaluating the program and reporting results.

I understand that my application may be submitted electronically for evaluation.

Soroptimist may share my personal information with its affiliates, service providers, and contractors, to the extent that such persons need access to the information in connection with the evaluation of my application for an award. Soroptimist will not sell or trade my personal information, and it will not include my personal information in any publication without my express permission.

Soroptimist may also contact the persons who have provided references about me, for confirmation of such references. Soroptimist or its contractors may also use or disclose my information to verify enrollment in the educational program described in my application.

I understand that my personal information will be stored in the United States of America (USA) and accessible to Soroptimist staff, evaluators and contractors with a need to know such information. I also understand that some of Soroptimist's affiliates, service providers, and contractors are located in the USA. As a result, my personal information may be transferred to or accessible in the USA and accessible to courts, law enforcement and national authorities in the USA, which may give rise to a risk that my travel to the USA could be impacted if information that I provide to Soroptimist is relevant to my eligibility to enter the USA.

Instructions

Furthermore, I understand that I may contact Soroptimist's program team at LYDAwards@soroptimist.org in order to: (a) access or update my personal information; (b) ask questions about Soroptimist's information handling practices, including to request written information about Soroptimist's policies and practices with respect to service providers outside my country of residence or to ask questions about such service providers; (c) express any concerns or complaints I may have about Soroptimist's handling of my information; or (d) withdraw my consent to Soroptimist's continued collection, use or disclosure of my personal information.

Step 3: Tell us about yourself

Fill out the award application telling us about yourself. Your information will be kept confidential and shared only with the evaluators unless you give us written permission to use your story to publicize the program. ****You must use [Adobe Reader](#) (free to download) to fill out the form. If you do not use Adobe Reader, your answers in the application will not be saved and your submitted application will appear blank.****

If you have questions, contact the person listed below or Soroptimist headquarters at LYDAwards@soroptimist.org.

Step 4: Ask people to tell us about you

You will need at least one person who is not related to you by blood or marriage to fill out the [reference form](#) you received with this application. The second reference form is optional but will strengthen your application. It is recommended that you request references from people who know you from an education or work setting. Please email this form to your references and request that they email the form back to you or send it directly to the local club when completed. Reference letters will NOT be accepted.

Step 5: Submit your application

Attach your application and reference form(s) to an email and send to the contact person listed below by November 15. Incomplete applications or applications received without at least one reference form will not be considered. If this section is blank, please email your application materials to [SIA Headquarters](#).

Soroptimist Club Name: _____

Region: _____

Club Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Postal Code: _____

Ready to Apply?

Begin your application on the next page now! We wish you the best of luck in achieving your educational and professional goals.



“Receiving these awards is a small testament to my ongoing fight in achieving a career so I can create a better life for my daughter.”

—Alma, Live Your Dream Awards recipient



Ready, Set, Live Your Dream!

Begin your application now.

Part I. Basic Information

Name (first, middle initial, last): _____

Address (number and street address): _____

City/Province: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Highest level of education achieved: _____ Date Completed : _____

Number of dependents you support (NOT including yourself): _____

How are they related to you (children, spouse/partner, parents, etc.)?: _____

Ages of dependents: _____

If you have dependents other than your children, please tell us a little about your dependents and why they rely on you for financial support.

A. More About You (Optional)

Which category best describes you? Please select all included in your identity. This question is optional.

White (European descent)

Latina, Latin American, Hispanic (Spanish or Portuguese Descent)

Black, African American, Afro-Latina (African descent)

Asian (East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian Descent)

Indigenous

SWANA - Southwest Asia and North Africa (Eg: Arab, Imazighen, Persian, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan, Algerian, etc)

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Eg: Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, etc)

Multiracial or Biracial

Other race, ethnicity or origin: _____

Prefer not to answer

Is there any other information that you would like to share about your racial/ethnic identity?

How did you hear about the Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Awards*?

A local Soroptimist club

A friend, relative, or co-worker

A career counselor or advisor at my school

Social media

A flyer posted in my community

Internet search

Searchable database of scholarships: _____

Other: _____

Part II. What are your education and career goals?



What kind of education are you currently pursuing?

GED/high school equivalency program

Professional certification training

Associate's degree

Other vocation/skills training

Bachelor's degree

What is the full name of the school or training program? Please do not abbreviate. _____

What subject are you studying? _____

What is your current status in the program?

Accepted in the program.

Accepted and currently enrolled.

Accepted in the program, enrolled, and currently attending classes.

Other, please explain: _____

When will you complete your studies (month and year)? _____

Are you working while you are getting your education? (check one) Yes No

If yes, how many hours per week? _____

In 300 words or less, please tell us about your career goals, and be specific about how your education and training supports these goals. Why have you chosen this educational and career path, and how does it relate to your overall career goals?

* Please review the [AI Guidance for Applicants](#).

Part III. Financial Information

Live Your Dream Awards recipients are chosen in part based on financial need. Please share information about your income and expenses. Please be as exact as you can.

Use the [Financial Section Tips Worksheet](#) to help you complete the Income and Expenses section of the application.

Are you the primary financial provider in your household? Yes No

Does anyone else living with you contribute to the household financially? Yes No

If yes, do they financially contribute more, less, or the same amount as you? More Less Same Amount

What is their relation to you?

A. Annual Financial Aid and Educational Expenses

What do you receive **annually** in financial aid?

All scholarship, awards, grants, etc. \$_____

All loans \$_____

What are your **annual** educational expenses?

Total cost of tuition, books, and fees ***before*** any loans/financial aid/scholarships: \$_____

B. Income: Please list your household income (from the money you have left after taxes) in the chart below.*
If your income varies from month to month, please list the average amount.

Employment:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Child Support:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Alimony:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Government Assistance:	\$_____	annual	monthly
<i>Include rental assistance, cash assistance, food stamps, etc.</i>			
Social Security Income (U.S. only):	\$_____	annual	monthly
Please list any additional income, including income other household members receive.			
Source:	_____		
	\$_____	annual	monthly
Source:	_____		
	\$_____	annual	monthly
Source:	_____		
	\$_____	annual	monthly
*This form will automatically add up your total annual income for you.		TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME: _____	

C. Credit Cards

Are you currently using credit cards or personal loans to help cover your expenses? Yes No

If yes, approximately, how much of your expenses are you covering with credit cards or loans?

\$_____ annual monthly

D. Savings

Do you have savings? Yes No Current Savings Balance \$_____

If yes, are you using your savings to supplement your living expenses? Yes No

If yes, approximately how much are you withdrawing from savings for living expenses?

\$_____ annual monthly

E. Expenses: Please list your household expenses in the chart below. Please be sure to indicate how often you incur these expenses (annually or monthly). Please explain any 0's below. *This form will automatically add up your total annual income for you.*

Housing:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Food:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Childcare:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Utilities:	\$_____	annual	monthly
<i>Include electricity, cell phone/landline, gas, AC/heat, internet, etc.</i>			
Medical:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Transportation:	\$_____	annual	monthly
<i>Include car payment, maintenance, insurance, rideshare costs, public transportation (bus, subway, train, etc.).</i>			
Debt Repayment:	\$_____	annual	monthly
Please list any additional expenses.			
Expense:	_____		
	\$_____	annual	monthly
Expense:	_____		
	\$_____	annual	monthly
Expense:	_____		
	\$_____	annual	monthly
Please explain any 0s in the expense section.			
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES:			

**This form will automatically place totals here for reference.*

TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES \$_____	TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME \$_____
TOTAL ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES \$_____	TOTAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL AID \$_____

Part IV. Tell us more about yourself

You faced some challenges, you've worked hard to overcome them ... now tell us how this award could help you live your dream! (750 words or less).

Your application will be stronger if the judges have a full understanding of you and your circumstances. Use this section to help them get to know you better! A note on Artificial Intelligence (AI): If you choose to use AI tools, we encourage you to use them to enhance, rather than replace your own writing and thoughts. Your application should reflect your own voice and individual journey. All applications are reviewed personally by Soroptimist members, not AI. Please review the [AI Guidance for Applicants](#).

Important note: We make an effort to protect your personal information. You can help by not mentioning specific names of individuals or names of specific places you've worked or lived in your response. Use phrases like "my child/partner" or "my workplace" instead.

Part V. Agreement

Please read the following information carefully. When you type your name below, you are agreeing to what you have read.

- I certify that all the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I will notify Soroptimist if there are any changes.
- I certify that AI tools may have supported my writing, but my experiences, goals, and voice are entirely my own.
- I certify that this is the only application I have submitted—in any format or to any address—this year for a Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Award*.
- I certify that I have not received a Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Award* or Women's Opportunity Award in the past.
- I have read, understood and agree to Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. privacy policy.

By typing your name below, you adhere to the above requirements.

Signature of applicant

Date

**Thank you for applying for the
Live Your Dream Awards.
Congratulations on all you have achieved so far!**



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