



Electa Chapter No. 14

Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, New York



MW Gregory R. Smith Jr., Grand Master

LaTonya K. Smith, Worthy Matron
Yvonne Ladson, Grand Worthy Matron

Dayequan El-Amin, Worthy Patron
Paul W. James, Grand Worthy Patron

Reach for the STARS Scholarships

- Margaret Harris Scholarship: \$1,000
- Ruth E. Miller Book Scholarship: \$500
- Past Matrons/Past Patrons Leadership & Service Scholarship



2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

<https://form.jotform.com/Electa14/2024-SCHOLARSHIP>

For questions contact PM Cynthia Cortijo-Rodriguez, Scholarship Chair
Donations to the Scholarship can be made at: www.electachapter14.org

February 9, 2024

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the [Reach for the STARS Scholarships](#) awarded by Electa Chapter No. 14, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, NY. Our chapter has engaged in very intentional ways to make a difference in our community through charity and service. We are excited to announce that the 2024 application process is now open for the [Margaret Harris, \\$1000 Scholarship](#), the [Ruth E. Miller, \\$500 Book Scholarship](#). Both scholarships are awarded annually to high need, high school students from under-served communities to help defray the cost of their college education. All applicants must demonstrate academic excellence, financial need, and community engagement.

Applicants must complete the electronic application and submit all the required documentation to the Scholarship Committee no later than **May 1, 2024**. Late applications will not be considered. Please apply via the following link and upload all supporting documentation.

<https://form.jotform.com/Electa14/2024-SCHOLARSHIP>

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by May 1, 2024. The scholarship recipients are required to attend our **Father Appreciation & Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, June 22, 2024** and will be recognized during the event. We plan to hold the event in person at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple located at 454 West 155th Street in Harlem, NY from 2-5 pm. We will provide up to two complimentary tickets to the event. Additional tickets may be purchased by the recipient's family/guests.

The actual scholarship check for the Margaret Harris Reach for the STARS Scholarship will be mailed directly to the college/university of the recipient's choice once proof of enrollment is provided and verified. The Ruth E. Miller Book Scholarship and the Past Matrons & Past Patrons Leadership Award funds will be mailed directly to the recipient upon verification of enrollment. Please be sure to read the packet thoroughly and provide all the required information via the application link.

Should you have any questions or require any clarity you can email us at electa14scholarship@gmail.com

Best of luck and we look forward to receiving your application.

Scholarship Committee
PM Cynthia Cortijo-Rodriguez, Chairperson
(347) 307-7302

2024 GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Electa Chapter No. 14, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, NY will award the **Margaret Harris Reach for the STARS Scholarship, the Ruth E. Miller Book Scholarship, The Past Matrons/Past Patrons Leadership & Service Scholarship \$800**, to high need, college bound high school students from under-served communities in New York City, who demonstrate academic excellence (minimum of 3.0 grade point average or B average equivalent), financial need and evidence of community engagement and leadership abilities.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

Each application will be evaluated by a committee and final selections will be based on the information referenced in the documents. Incomplete or untimely (i.e., received after the submission deadline) late applications will not be considered. In recognition of the current Covid situation, documents can be provided electronically. The Committee reserves the right to verify the validity of the documents provided and disqualify applications based on such verification. Be sure to have all supporting documentation ready prior to completion of the application, as you will need to upload the documents. Should you experience any challenges please email Chairperson Cynthia Cortijo-Rodriguez at electa14scholarship@gmail.com

1. A Completed and Signed Electronic Application by May 1, 2024;
2. <https://form.jotform.com/Electa14/2024-SCHOLARSHIP>
3. A Copy of your Official Transcript (3.0/B average); (can be uploaded into application)
4. Two Letters of Recommendations, each of which specifically address/discuss your Character, Financial Need, and academic Aptitude/Decorum. At least one must be from a high school teacher/administrator. Recommendations from friends and/or family members will not be considered; (can be uploaded into application)
5. **A Succinctly Written Essay (2-3 pages) by YOU, the Applicant, which contains the following information:** (can be uploaded into application)
 - a) Introduce yourself and your future goals.
 - b) Why do you want to get a college education and what would it mean for your future to you to receive this financial scholarship?
 - c) Share some of your extracurricular/community service activities; and describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability both in and out of school. **[those applying for the Leadership & Service Award should make every effort to highlight their involvement in the community and leadership roles in and out of school]**
 - d) Who in your life has been your biggest influence and why?
 - e) Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart.

THIS COMPLETED ELECTRONIC APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2024

Application: <https://form.jotform.com/Electa14/2024-SCHOLARSHIP>

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The Prince Hall Order Eastern Star

HISTORY: The Order Eastern Star is a fraternal organization that both men and women can join. It was established in 1850 by Rob Morris, a lawyer and educator from Boston, Massachusetts, who had been an official with the Freemasons. In 1866, Dr. Morris started working with Robert Macoy, and handed the Order over to him while Morris was traveling in the Holy Land. Macoy organized the current system of Chapters, and modified Dr. Morris' Rosary into a Ritual. It is based on teachings from the Bible but is open to people of all theistic beliefs. Eastern Star is a social order composed of persons with spiritual values, but it is not a religion. Its appeal rests in the true beauty of the refreshing and character-building lessons that are so sincerely portrayed in its ritualistic work. A deep fraternal bond exists between its members. It is the wholesome relationship of sisterly and brotherly love brought about through high principles exemplified in our lives which makes us near and dear to each other.

PURPOSE: The stated purposes of the organization are: Charitable, Educational, Fraternal and Scientific; but there is much more to it than that. Dr. Rob Morris, the Poet Laureate of Masonry, founded the Order using the beautiful and inspiring Biblical examples of heroic conduct and moral values. These portray the noble principles which should adorn the personal lives of Eastern Star members. Eastern Star strives to take good people and through uplifting and elevating associations of love and service, and through precepts and examples build an Order which is truly dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness.

LEGACY OF ELECTA CHAPTER NO. 14: Chartered as a member of the Prince Hall family on June 6, 1916, our chapter has provided outstanding service to the surrounding community for over 100 years. We operate under the umbrella of Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Inc., State of NY and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. Electa Chapter #14 has a long-standing tradition of providing charity to those most in need and partnering with community-based organizations to provide services and resources to our most marginalized communities. For more information visit our website at www.electachapter14.org.

CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT: Electa Chapter #14 will be one of the preeminent chapters in the State of New York. We will be recognized by the excellence of our ritualistic work, a commitment to being a contributing partner in our community, our cohesive team approach to leadership, our administrative efficiency and our sisterhood/brotherhood.

THE REACH FOR THE STARS SCHOLARSHIP FUND: The Reach for the Stars Scholarship Fund was established in January 2018 by the chapter at the recommendation of then President, Sister Anilsa R. Nuñez and her counterpart Brother Sandino Sanchez. The chapter was especially committed to assisting students achieve their dream of a higher education but recognized that the high cost of attending college made the goal unattainable for some. The goal of the scholarship is to promote and recognize academic excellence and community engagement and seeks to provide perpetual support to New York City youth looking to pursue higher education at a college of their choice. In 2019 the Margaret Harris Reach for the STARS Scholarship (\$1,000) was created, followed by the Ruth E. Miller \$500 Book Scholarship in 2021, both in honor of our departed and beloved past presidents. In 2023, The Past Matrons/Past Patrons Leadership & Service Scholarship \$800 award was established to recognize leadership abilities and community service.