



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

**Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
Continuing Education Award Application Form
for Live Your Dream Recipients**

Name: _____ Date LYD Award received: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) Continuing Education Award was established in 2018 to provide additional financial support to our LYD recipients as they work toward completing their education programs. This award provides LYD recipients with \$500 a year, for up to 4 years after receiving a Live Your Dream Award or until the recipient completes her GED, skills training or undergraduate education program, whichever occurs first. To be eligible to receive this additional funding, **a LYD recipient must be able to document that she has: (1) continued her enrollment in a GED program, skills training or undergraduate education program on at least a half-time basis; (2) continued to experience significant financial challenges that impact her ability to complete her education program; and (3) maintained no less than a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA).**

In order for SIGP to verify that you meet the above requirements, this application form as well the following information must be mailed to SIGP at the address listed below no later than January 15 for each of the years you are requesting the Continuing Education Award:

- 1) Your official college transcript* which provides evidence of your continued enrollment as well as your cumulative grade point average or, in the case of enrollment in a GED program, a statement of status and
- 2) Your personal statement that describes the financial, economic and/or other significant challenges you face in order to complete your education program. If you continue to have financial responsibility for dependents, the number and age of dependents should be included in your personal statement.

*If your college will only provide an official college transcript directly to education or other organizations, please request that your college mails your transcript to:

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe
32 Lake Shore Drive
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

If you have questions about this award or requirements, contact the Continuing Education Award Chairperson: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

(OVER)

Exceptions:

If a LYD recipient has extreme extenuating circumstances resulting in less than half-time enrollment or a break in enrollment and has not received the maximum Continuing Education Award of \$2,000, the recipient may provide information to the Continuing Education Award Chairperson that gives the reason for her enrollment history and the recipient's plan for completion. The Board, at its discretion, may allow some level of funding beyond the 4 year period if the applicant continues to meet all the other requirements as set forth above.

Similarly, a LYD recipient who continues her enrollment in moving toward completing an undergraduate degree but has not received the maximum Continuing Education Award of \$2,000 may request an extension of financial assistance to the Continuing Education Chairperson. The request must include the recipient's plan and timeline for undergraduate degree completion. The Board, at its discretion, may allow some additional funding not to exceed the maximum if the applicant continues to meet all requirements as set forth above.

Additional Soroptimist Education Award:

Former LYD recipients are encouraged to apply for the Soroptimist International Midwest Region Virginia M. Wagner Educational Award which also provides financial assistance to women seeking a baccalaureate or graduate degree. Candidates are judged on the following criteria: a) effort toward education; b) scholarship; c) extra-curricular activities; d) financial need; and e) general impression. Information about this award can be found on SIGP's website: grossepointesoroptimist.org.

Supporting Live Your Dream Award Recipients Toward Education Program Completion

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization whose mission is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. In support of this mission, Soroptimist International of the Americas' cornerstone program is the *Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women*. These awards provide monetary assistance to help women with educational or other expenses such as tuition, childcare, transportation, books, and program materials and equipment.

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe (SIGP) provides at least one LYD Award each year. While these cash awards are generous, they are a one-time honor and the reality is that most recipients will continue to face financial challenges which can hamper their ability to complete their education programs. Recognizing this, SIGP established the *Continuing Education Award* in 2018 to provide additional financial support to our LYD recipients who are successfully moving toward program completion.

The SIGP Continuing Education Award Program:

- SIGP will award \$500 per year to a qualified LYD recipient up to the time she completes her education program but not to exceed \$2,000 in total over a 4-year period beyond the initial LYD award year.
- To be eligible, the LYD recipient must: a) continue to be enrolled in a GED, skills training or undergraduate education program on at least a half-time basis; b) continue to experience significant financial need as described in a personal statement; and c) maintain a 2.0 or higher cumulative grade point average as demonstrated by an official college transcript or in a statement of status in the case of enrollment in a GED program.
- LYD recipients will be provided information about the Continuing Education Award, its requirements and the application form when they are awarded their LYD Award.
- Should the recipient wish to avail herself of this opportunity, she will be responsible for providing the information as stated above to the Continuing Education Award Chairperson. This information must be mailed no later than January 15 of each requested year of continued financial support.
- The Chairperson will review each application to verify requirement compliance and report to the SIGP Board members who will make the final approval determination.

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*****Please note, however, that a LYD recipient who is awarded a Virginia Wagner Educational Award is excluded from also receiving Continuing Education Award funding.**