

# **The Career Academy Scholarship Award**

A Scholarship in support of Dawson's Access and Affordability Goals

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## **Overview (Why):**

Girard B. Henderson was a man who lived and breathed innovation. He was a true pioneer in every sense of the word and launched project after project with the ambition to solve problems through determination and ingenuity. His long list of inventions reflected his risk-taking spirit: he built the world's first underground cable television system, pioneered satellite communication for residential television reception, and invested in business aviation.

Mr. Henderson was an entrepreneur and philanthropist committed to finding solutions, and his curiosity about the world was insatiable. In 1967, he opened The Alexander Dawson School as a summer program for underprivileged children near Boulder, Colorado. He later expanded it into a year-round school, grounded in the belief that education should cultivate a love of the land, a strong work ethic, and the competencies needed for future changemakers.

The G.B. Henderson Career Academy Scholarship honors this legacy by expanding access to Dawson's summer Career Academy programs, encouraging students to explore future pathways through curiosity, innovation, and purposeful learning.

## **Scholarship Details & Description (What)**

In honor of Mr. Henderson's legacy, The Alexander Dawson School will award a limited number of Career Academy Scholarships to qualifying middle school students.

This scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate Dawson's Core Values through curiosity, initiative, collaboration, and a commitment to learning. It is designed to increase access to Dawson's Career Academy and ensure that more students can participate in meaningful summer learning experiences.

## **The scholarship includes:**

- Full or partial tuition for one Career Academy session
- All program materials and field studies
- Daily lunch during the program
- Before- and after-care services, if needed

## **The G.B. Henderson Scholarship Award Eligibility Criteria:**

- Qualify as a rising 5-8 grade student
- Demonstrate alignment with Dawson's Core Values: Belonging, Engagement, Advocacy, and Resilience
- Show curiosity, initiative, and a willingness to learn
- Demonstrate positive character and respect for others
- Qualify for need-based assistance (if applicable)

Academic GPA minimums and formal disciplinary reviews are *not* required.

## **Selection Process (How)**

Interested candidates will submit a 350–500-word essay in response to G.B. Henderson's biographical information and their intentions to live his legacy as a recipient of this scholarship.

Additional questions that may help students construct a response:

- After learning about Mr. Henderson's life, what inspires you most about his curiosity and innovation? How do you hope to explore your own interests through Career Academy?
- Mr. Henderson believed in self-reliance, self-respect, and the value of hard work. How do these qualities show up in the way you learn, try new things, or pursue your goals?
- Career Academy is designed to help students explore future pathways. What career fields or interests are you most excited to learn about, and how does that connect to being a lifelong learner like Mr. Henderson?

The candidate selection process will include reviewing 1-2 teacher recommendations.

Scholarship Committee:

The following team members will review applications and monitor recipients: Head of School, Director of Admissions, Director of Development, and the Director of Institutional Impact.

## **Scholarship Monitoring and Ongoing Expectations:**

The scholarship ensures the recipient and their family receive ongoing support through periodic check-ins from members of the scholarship committee. The scholarship committee will track the recipient's participation, engagement, and growth during the Career Academy session.

Recipients are expected to:

- Attend regularly and participate fully in program activities
- Demonstrate respectful behavior and collaboration with peers
- Engage thoughtfully in workshops, field studies, and projects

At the conclusion of the session, recipients may be invited to:

- Share a short reflection on their experience
- Contribute to a program showcase or presentation
- Participate in a brief check-in with a member of the scholarship review team

These touchpoints help the school understand the impact of the scholarship and support future access initiatives.

### **How to Submit Your Application:**

Please submit all application materials by email to [CareerAcademy@adsrm.org](mailto:CareerAcademy@adsrm.org), or by filling out the application form on [adsrm.org/summercamp](https://adsrm.org/summercamp). Applications for Summer Camp 2026 are due by May 29, 2026.