



Boys Hope Girls Hope

Colorado



SCHOLAR HANDBOOK 2023-2024

To *nurture* and *guide* motivated young people in need to become well-educated, career-ready men and women for *others*.



WELCOME

We are excited to work with you and your scholar. Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado (BHGCO) prides itself in working with scholars to and through college and securing their first career position. The purpose of this handbook is to help you become familiar with the requirements and expectations of BHGCO programming.

In addition to providing robust programming, Program Managers cultivate relationships with scholars to support them in reaching their potential. There will often be opportunities made available to scholars to support their interests and build an individual brand that will bolster post-secondary readiness.

You are the instrumental role in your child's high school experience. You are welcome and encouraged to attend all school and BHGCO events. This includes, and is not limited to, Back-to-School nights, extracurricular activities, dinners, award ceremonies, and excursions. Please contact the BHGCO team if you have an interest in volunteering.

As the year progresses, scholars will work closely with BHGCO team members to configure class schedules in a way that exposes them to rigor and garners college credit. In some cases, this may mean Advanced Placement (AP) courses and in others it may be through concurrent enrollment at the high school campus or earning credits at a nearby community college.

We look forward to the journey with you over the next eight+ years.



Boys Hope Girls Hope (BHG) is an international program with affiliates throughout the United States, Mexico, and Guatemala. For 50 years, BHGH has helped young people leverage their strengths by providing access to education and opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. With their motivation and determination, and BHGH's high expectations and nurturing environments, our scholars/collegians have been given the tools they need to build their own success stories.

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado (BHGCO) was established in 1993 with the goal of equipping young people to overcome significant barriers and become well-educated, responsible, and compassionate citizens with healthy relationships, self-sustaining careers, and a practice of giving back to the community.

BHGCO measures its long-term impact through these three principal indicators of success:

- **Post-Secondary degree or certification completion;**
- **Employment and career engagement; and**
- **Contribution to the community.**

BHGCO's cultural value of the Jesuit ideal of "men and women for others" guides everyone in our organization to measure success not only in terms of personal accomplishments but also by what one contributes to others in service and leadership.

SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE

BHGHCO students are referred to as scholars and apply during 8th grade and summer before 9th grade. The application process is competitive and includes both candidate and family interviews. Currently, programming is offered at Regis Jesuit High School and Aurora Central High School. Selected scholars participate in an Introductory period that lasts for the duration of the first semester of 9th grade. In rare cases, there are options for scholars to receive consideration for participation during the second semester of 9th grade.

ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9th-10th Grade- 24 hours/month, primarily at school location• 11th- 12th Grade- 20 hours/month, primarily at school location• One Success plan/Semester• At least one Extra-Curricular/Ongoing third-party program per semester• 3.0+ GPA• Complete one internship or part-time/summer job before high school graduation• Scholars in 11th and 12th grade complete at least one AP, Dual Enrollment, or Honors Course per semester• Participate in 4 college visits by 12th grade• Monthly goal check in• 25-hours of community service annually
SUMMER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40-hours of programming• 11th-12th grade scholars with job/internship, may be required to complete 20 hours
COLLEGIAN EXPECTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school graduates enroll in full-time post-secondary program within 3 months of graduation• Maintain debt load less than \$5,500, annually• Complete at least one internship or job related to field of study• Communicate with post-secondary program manager at least monthly through sophomore year, quarterly after that, unless specified otherwise• Complete scholarship application once a semester• Complete 30 credits to degree completion annually

PROGRAMMING

During the school year, programming will be regularly scheduled and can include a multitude of activities designed to create community and support a college ready student's learnings. Activities can include financial literacy, career panels, test preparation, resume building, and interview practice. Scholars requesting tutors or with grades below 3.0 are expected to meet with tutors and if necessary, reschedule with appropriate notice. These tutors are provided either by BHGHCO or the school. 11th and 12th graders participate in college access programming, including college identification, college essays, and scholarship essays. Scholars and families meet with program managers to complete FASFA forms, review college acceptances and financial aid packages. BHGHCO will work with rising college freshman to ensure they begin college within three months of high school graduation.

PARENT/GUARDIAN/CAREGIVER COMMITMENT

Throughout the year, Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are asked to support programming activities and to limit scholar absences. There will be meetings/activities scheduled throughout the year, where Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are asked to participate.

COMMUNICATION

Open channels of communication are encouraged and essential in the academic and social development of scholars. It is important to subscribe to communication platforms to receive updates about programming and upcoming events. Most communication from Program Managers will be through email or the Remind app. Program Managers are accessible by phone and email and work hard to respond to messages within 24 hours. The same holds true for BHGHCO office staff. Scheduled programming can be found at www.bghcolorado.org/calendar.

GRADES

Per BHGH guidelines, scholars are expected to maintain a 3.0 Grade Point Average. Scholars who fall below this mark are subject to academic probation and will be placed on a contract until grades improve and/or re-evaluated. Notice will be communicated about scholars placed on academic probation.

DRESS CODE FOR EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Dress code will be dependent on the activity or event, and Program Managers will share dress code expectations prior to the engagement. Scholars are expected to dress "collegiately" and avoid wearing clothing that reveals undergarments, pajamas, excessively ripped jeans, or hats. Many events/activities will focus on college and career readiness and dress should reflect accordingly.

ATTENDANCE

Scholars are expected to engage in programming and participate in BHGHCO activities throughout the school year and in the summer. In addition, there will be activities scheduled during the weekend.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Scholars are expected to complete a minimum of 25-hours/school year in community service. BHGHCO will provide opportunities throughout the year. Scholars are also encouraged to identify meaningful community service opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation plans will be available for activities and over time scholars will be encouraged to drive or secure their own transportation. In some cases, scholars will participate in activities requiring flight travel outside of Colorado.

ENVISION U

All rising seniors will attend Envision U during the summer prior to their senior year. Envision U is held on a college campus and usually requires air travel. Scholars in good standing will have fees covered by BHGHCO. Participants can reflect on their passions and explore pathways for college and beyond. They will participate in events such as:

- A college fair with university partners and local admission representatives.
- Workshops covering topics such as financial aid, scholarship search, and writing powerful essays.
- Service in the local community with individual and group reflection.
- Team building and skill development activities.
- Exciting social events

FAQ'S

What is the cost for my student to be in BHGHCO?

There is **no** cost for scholars and collegians. BHGHCO is a 501c3 nonprofit and raises money to underwrite the program. At times throughout the year, scholars/collegians will be asked to participate in fundraising activities. Occasionally, there are optional opportunities that cost additional funds and BHGHCO will work with the scholar to earn those funds.

What if my student needs to miss programming?

The school and the Program Manager should be contacted when a scholar will miss school and or programming. When missing school, the scholar should contact the instructors for each class.

What if we will be out of town during a break and cannot attend programming?

In some cases, Program Managers can provide an alternative activity. We ask that BHGHCO commitments and requirements are taken into consideration when making travel plans.

What if my student participates in extracurricular activities and is not able to attend programming?

BHGHCO promotes participation in extracurricular activities, and it also satisfies a semester requirement. Scholars should discuss temporarily modifying semester requirements or adjusting days for attendance with Program Managers.

When/How does my student receive the BHGHCO college scholarship?

Scholars who complete high school in good standing are eligible to apply for and receive college scholarship funding for a total of eight semesters within six years of high school graduation. For the school year 2023-2024, scholarship is up to \$2,000 a semester.