

McKenna Clouse
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Waldorf Scholarship Program

Pillars is an academic scholarship program here at Waldorf University. Everyone is welcome to join and most people are usually offered this scholarship right away when they apply if they are not in a sport. Pillar's is for students who have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Like any other club or program on campus, pillar 's has pillar foundations. These include. Tradition, passion, community, and success. Each grade level is split into a different pillar and that's what they focus on during the year.

To be a part of pillars you need the 3.0 GPA, as well as you need to be active in a club. Also, whatever major you are in you are required to go to those major club meetings as well. Pillars is made up off almost all majors, you see a bunch of people from communications, elementary education and business. This doesn't mean that other majors aren't welcome and aren't in pillars, we just see more of these majors in pillars because they are more popular.

Pillars is a big-time commitment; you agree to going to meetings twice a month for one and half hours. If you do miss a meeting without a valid reason, you need to do community service for two hours, if you don't do this it could lead to a reduction of scholarship. One meeting involves all grade levels, and the other you are split into people with your grade.

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The pillars program is run by Rachel Harms who is a Waldorf Graduate. The pillars program has been around for about 5 years.

“I wanted to start a program like this to help the students,” Harms said. “I feel like this program helps students prepare for post-graduation life.”

Most of the meetings consist of learning about your strengths and how to deal with your weaknesses. When you first join pillars, you take an aptitude test that tells your strengths and this is how you are sectioned off in groups for meetings. You sit by people who have the same views as you. There are also many guest speakers who speak about their lives in the real world and how to prepare for that. Pillars also provides meetings with mock interviews, and panels to ask any questions related with jobs.

Something in particular for the seniors is they have to write a paper talking about their strengths and how they are going to help them once they graduate college. This is part of their scholarship requirement and you start working on it your senior year.

Autumn Paulson is in her second year of pillars. She is a business major and her clubs include Rotaract, business and Alpha Chi where she is president of the club.

“I really enjoy pillars,” Paulson said. “I think it helps provide you with the skills you need for post college life, as well as helps you meet new people.”

Pillars is always looking for new members to join. If you meet the criteria, and are open to making this time commitment don't be afraid to join. Pillars like any other scholarship is there to help students financially through scholarship money or if you just want to be a part of it just being in the program.