



Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders

Legacy Scholarship

LEONA GRINER

APPLICATION PERIOD:

January 2 through March 20, 2026

*All applications must be received by the High Desert Community Foundation no later than 5pm, March 20, 2026. **IMPORTANT: Handwritten, incomplete or late applications will not be considered by the Committee. Scholarship Award amount is \$500.00***

Prior to submitting your application, please read carefully the *eligibility* requirements for applying for the **LEONA GRINER DVL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP** at www.dvlproject.com, and the guidelines for writing the personal statement which are included with this application.

For the **Leona Griner** Legacy Scholarship, student applicants will demonstrate talent in the visual arts including sculpture, painting and drawing and a strong interest in the cultural environment of the High Desert. Because Ms. Griner loved the native plants of the desert and often created art from “found objects,” student art work which includes native plants, rocks and wood of the High Desert, as well as metals, glass and wires will be of special interest to the Selection Committee.

While much of the artwork created by Ms. Griner is in the hands of private collectors or has been lost, applicants can find similar inspiration in the works of such artists as Betye Saar, Noah Purifoy (see especially the “Noah Purifoy Outdoor Desert Art Museum” in Joshua Tree, California), John Outterbridge, Marcel Duchamp, and Jasper Johns, as notable examples of “found” or “assemblage” art.

Personal Statement

As part of the application for the **Leona Griner Scholarship**, applicants are required to write a personal statement. (**Note:** *you are cautioned against simply “recycling” personal essays used for college applications or other scholarships.*) In 300 typed words or less, describe the influences on your creative works of art or demonstrated interest in the arts or the cultural environment of the High Desert. These influences— positive or negative can be an instructor, another artist, family member, an event, or other sources. Your personal statement should provide insight into your current work and your expectations for future study and career choices.

IMPORTANT: Your personal statement will be accompanied by a color photo of your art work (*do not submit the actual artwork*). For graphic artists, a replica of the graphic arts product can be an example such as that produced for a theater program, a book cover, magazine article, graphic novel or illustration for cartoon collections.

Eligible Student Criteria

- Who are between the ages of 18 years old and 24 years old be at least 18 years old by December 30, 2026, and no older than 24 years old by July 1, 2026.
- Who are graduating high school seniors with a *minimum* 3.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale, or who are continuing enrolled post-secondary students with a *minimum* 3.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale, AND
- Who are graduating from *regionally accredited* public or private high schools by July 1, 2026 eligible students include those graduating from charter high schools, religiously affiliated high schools or home schools or home school programs in the High Desert region and which are *regionally accredited* OR
- Who are enrolled in a *regionally accredited* post-secondary institution.

*Note: students enrolled in or planning to attend an institution that is **not** regionally accredited are **not eligible** for consideration for the scholarship.*

- All students must be residents of California for *at least* three (3) years and who are graduating or have graduated from a regionally accredited high school in the High Desert region.

After you have read the brief description here of Ms. Griner, the *Legacy Honoree*, complete the application and combine it with the other required materials for submission and mail it to the Committee:

Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders Legacy Scholarships
Committees c/o High Desert Community Foundation
Post Office Box 2028 Apple Valley, CA 92307

NOTE: Applications must be typed and completely filled out.
Handwritten **or incomplete** applications will not be considered by the Committee.

Leona Griner **February 19, 1932 - September 8, 2012**

Leona “Lee” Griner was a true child of the High Desert. As a young girl, she moved with her family from Pasadena to the High Desert in 1938. She delighted in exploring the desert with her brothers first in the Lucerne Valley, and later in the Bell Mountain area of Victorville where she carved her name on many boulders.

Leona and her older brother were horseback riders. Living in proximity to the Murray Dude Ranch, the first California Dude Ranch open to Blacks, she was delighted to demonstrate her trick riding skills to the celebrity guests of the Murray Ranch. She so impressed the owners of the Murray ranch with her poise, maturity and penmanship, Mrs. Murray hired a twelve year old Lee to be her secretary.

In the closely knit Bell Mountain community, Leona lived among neighbors—farmers, miners, artisans—who influenced and supported her creativity. She became an artist who worked with native plants, rocks and wood, “found” objects and “assemblages.” Lee learned to work with glass from her father, and she would study metallurgy in high school. She attended college in Pasadena for one year before returning to Bell Mountain.

Her works in glass and ceramics gained the attention and admiration of collectors throughout the Victor Valley and Southern California.

Application for Ms. Leona Griner Scholarship

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____

Gender: Female _____ Male _____

Address _____

City _____, CA Zip Code _____

Cell phone _____ or Message phone _____

E--mail address _____

2. EDUCATION

Last high school attended _____

Dates attended (Month/Year) _____ Graduate? Yes ___ No ___

School/Institution currently attending or planning to attend _____

Start date or proposed start date _____

Planned course of study, education or career goals _____

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3. **Resume.** Include a resume' of *two (2) pages or less* as part of this application. **Note: A resume that exceeds the page requirements may not be considered by the Committee.**
 4. **Letter of reference.** Please attach *at least one but no more than two letters* of reference that support your application. **Note: All letters must be typed and must not exceed 300 words. Letters not typed or those which exceed 300 words may not be read by the Committee.**
 5. **Official/Certified Transcripts** are required as part of the application package. Before the scholarship is awarded to the successful applicant, a final Official Transcript will be required to be submitted to DVL. Applicants graduating from high school also must include a "letter of acceptance" from the institution they plan to attend. Applicants currently enrolled in a post: secondary institution must present evidence of "academic progress" from an institutional official *at the counselor level or above from the institution in which they are enrolled.*

6. **Institution Accreditation.** *For applicants to be eligible for the Legacy Scholarship, all education institutions to be considered by applicants or in which they are enrolled must be “regionally accredited.”* Accreditation information usually can be obtained from the Registrar of the institution.
7. **Personal Statement.** Write an original personal statement as directed in the first part of this application.
8. **A submission of art work is Required.**

Applicant Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of information may result in termination of my application or of any scholarship award granted to me.

Printed name_____

Signature_____Date_____