



ZONTA

CLUB OF
DALLAS

BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award

2026 APPLICATION



presents

Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award

A Zonta Club of Dallas Program, Funded by the Zonta Club of Dallas Foundation

General Information

The goal of the Zonta Club of Dallas Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award program is to honor exceptional leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, ethical conduct and significant contributions while addressing global or local issues affecting women and girls or climate justice.

The Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award recognizes young women for their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to business excellence. The award is designed to encourage young women to enter careers and to seek leadership positions in business in their communities and throughout the world while addressing global or local issues affecting women and girls or climate justice. The Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Award looks to the women of today to be the leaders of tomorrow. Denise Kirkman is a role model for young women interested in business leadership careers. Denise graduated from the University of Detroit with a bachelor's in management information systems in 1989. Denise believed in lifelong learning and went on to receive her MBA from the University of Dallas and a Master's degree in Organizational Development from American University. Denise held notable leadership roles across various prominent organizations, including American Express, Accenture, Verizon and the IRS. She is recognized as a thought leader in her field, focusing on developing, implementing, and managing solutions that enhance both technology and business processes. Denise was devoted to her daughter, active in community engagement and loved to travel to meet new people and experience new adventures. She always had a kind word to share and provided support to those in need.

The Awards

Zonta Club of Dallas provides this \$1000 award to a qualified recipient through the Zonta Club of Dallas Charitable Trust Foundation.

Who is Eligible?

Women aged 16-19 years and living or studying in the Dallas area at the time the application is submitted to the Zonta Club of Dallas and demonstrate evidence of the following, are eligible to apply.

- Currently attending high school in the Dallas area and on track to graduate at end of Spring 2026 semester
- Confirmed attendance in a business program with major field of specialization in accounting, economics, finance, business management, business technology, information technology, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business, or entrepreneurship at an accredited university for the Fall 2026 semester
- Excellent Academic Achievement
- Experience in local or student clubs/organizations, especially those involved with helping others learn
- Volunteer leadership achievements
- Knowledge of Zonta International and its programs

Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible to apply. Applicants for the 2026 Zonta Club of Dallas Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award may not also apply for the 2026 Zonta Club of Dallas Ruth Maddox Young Women in STEM Award or the 2026 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award.

Application Requirements

- Completion of the official application
- Verification of current enrollment by school official.
- Two confidential recommendations from adults, not related to the applicant, such as teachers, school officials or community leaders.

Supporting documentation not requested will not be considered. All applications and supporting information become the property of Zonta Club of Dallas. Zonta Club of Dallas has final authority over any aspect of the Awards.

Please give one of the attached recommendation forms to those providing recommendations. IF THE RECOMMENDATION WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY FROM THE APPLICATION THEN APPLICANT NEEDS TO PROVIDE THE NAME OF THOSE WHO WILL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE APPLICATION. ANY RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN RECOMMENDER SIGNATURE (not typed name).

Application process

All application materials must be **received** at zontaywinbiz@gmail.com (as either a plain PDF or word document) by March 22, 2026.



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Application for Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award

Send applications and direct questions to:

c/o: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____

_____ ZONTA Club of Dallas
_____ Maryann Maddox
_____ Applications and other required
_____ documents will only be accepted via email
_____ 214-673-9268
_____ zontaywinbiz@gmail.com

Application Deadline: March 22, 2026
(received by deadline)

Name: _____

_____ Last (Family)

_____ First (Given)

_____ Middle

Present Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Citizenship: _____

Name of School currently attending: _____

Address of School currently attending: _____

Planned Graduation date and current GPA _____

University attending/accepted to in fall _____

University major _____

PERSONAL GOALS

Please describe in short your anticipated course of study and current career interests, including whether and how you plan to be active in volunteer or community organizations. (150 words maximum) Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

DECLARATION BY APPLICANT

I certify that all of the information contained in my application form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that **I did not receive assistance in completing the essay portions of this application**. I understand that, at the option of the Zonta Club of Dallas, I may be interviewed as a candidate for the Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award. I consent to the use of my photo and material in my application in electronic or hard copy publication by Zonta Club of Dallas.

Date

Signature (TYPED OR PRINTED NAME – not accepted)

Please answer all questions below, noting the word limit for each. Preference will be given to those applicants who observe the word restrictions. **In evaluating applications all questions are rated in equal value.**

Question

1. Describe your entrepreneurship, business related, and leadership activities or interest

Describe the activities you participate in that demonstrate your entrepreneurship, business acumen and leadership. Please include what you find most rewarding or valuable about your participation in these activities. *(200 words maximum)* Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

2. Describe the characteristics that you possess that demonstrate entrepreneurship, business skills, and leadership.

(200 words maximum) Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

3. How do you plan to leverage your college education to make significant contributions to building a better world for women and girls?

Describe how pursuing your chosen curriculum at an accredited university/college will make you prepared to build a better world for women and girls.

(200 words maximum) Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

4. Volunteer/community involvement activities or interest

Describe the activities you participate in that show your support of the world around you or benefit your community. Include any leadership positions and describe any national or international experience. *(200 words maximum)* Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

Checklist to be completed by applicant:

- ☐ Verification of current enrollment by school official
- ☐ Completed application materials, typed and in English including Applicant's signature and date
- ☐ Two confidential recommendations
- ☐ Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization – Initial as applicable, sign and date



Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization

The Zonta Club of Dallas is committed to honoring the privacy and wishes of all of our Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award recipients at all times. In order to do this, please read the following information carefully and indicate your agreement as appropriate.

1. Most data collected by Zonta Club of Dallas is used only to help ZCD better serve its award recipients. It is our general policy to collect and store only personal information that our recipients knowingly provide. ZCD does not sell, trade, or rent your personally identifying information to third parties. Except as described in paragraph two, we take reasonable measures not to disclose personally identifying information about you.

_____ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.
(initials)

2. From time to time, Zonta Club of Dallas conducts various marketing activities to promote the Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award program. In addition, to ensure ZCD's ability to fund the scholarships, the ZCD may from time to time provide information about the recipients. Zonta retains the right to use your name, photograph and biographical information to promote the Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award in various promotional materials, including the website.

_____ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.
(initials)

Applicant's signature is required _____ Date _____
(Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page.)



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Recommendation for Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award

Please return this form to be **received** **March 22, 2026**
by:

To Zonta club of: Dallas

Email: zontaywinbiz@gmail.com

Applicant:

Last (Family) Name

First

Middle

Recommendation from:

Name (please print)

Position/Title

Recommendation for Applicant for Zonta Club of Dallas Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award

The applicant above has applied for a Zonta Club of Dallas Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award. Please discuss the applicant's accomplishments, motivation, exceptional leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, ethical conduct, significant contributions in addressing global or local issues affecting women and girls or climate justice and potential for excelling in leadership and entrepreneurship at an accredited university/college. The recommendation must be signed, or emailed directly to the address above, by the recommender.

NOTE: IF THE RECOMMENDATION WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY FROM THE APPLICATION THEN APPLICANT NEEDS TO FILL THIS FORM OUT IDENTIFYING WHO WILL PROVIDE RECOMMENDATION AND INCLUDE WITH APPLICATION.



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**Verification of Current Enrollment and GPA
Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award**

Please return this form by: March 22, 2026
To Zonta club of: Dallas
Email: zontaywinbiz@gmail.com

School/GPA: _____

I certify that _____ is scheduled to graduate
(name)

on _____ at _____
(graduation date) (name of school)

(school address)

Date Signature of School Official

(Official School Stamp)