

The progress of women in the last century has dramatically increased the opportunities available to women, yet women's participation in positions of leadership in science, technology, engineering and math continues to lag behind. While women make up 48% of the U.S. workforce, their share of STEM jobs remains significantly lower. In 2022, women held just over 26% of U.S. STEM positions, a figure that increased by only one percentage point since 2000. In engineering, tech fields and academia, women account for about 30% of the higher level and leadership positions. The Zonta Club of Dallas believes women's advancement in these fields is key to building a better world for women and girls. The Ruth Maddox Young Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (YWinSTEM) Awards program recognizes young women for their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to furthering their education and leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Ruth Maddox is a role model for young women interested in STEM careers. She was the third woman to graduate from SMU with an electrical engineering degree. A Registered Professional Engineer of the State of Texas, Ruth worked for Consulting Engineer David C. Pfeiffer, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at SMU. She was then employed by the Dallas Power & Light company which became part of TXU. She worked as an Illuminating Engineer for 37 years designing lighting for many commercial and industrial buildings. Her artistic talents and education enabled her to assist many consulting engineers and designers of new and remodeled Dallas buildings such as the Great Hall of the Apparel Mart, First Baptist Church, The Adolphus Hotel, and many other churches, offices and homes.

This \$1500 scholarship is fully funded by Zonta Club of Dallas Foundation.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

Established in 2012, the Ruth Maddox Young Women in STEM Award honors young women of age 16 to 19, who have confirmed their attendance into a science, technology, engineering and/or math curriculum/major at an accredited university/college for the Fall semester. Zonta Club of Dallas is funding one-time \$1500 scholarships to qualified, selected recipient(s).

ELIGIBILITY

Women of any nationality who are students of age 16-19, living or studying in the Dallas area at the time of application and demonstrate evidence of the following are eligible to apply:

- Currently enrolled in high school and on track to graduate at end of Spring 2026 semester
- Confirmed attendance in a science, technology, engineering and/or math curriculum at an accredited university for the Fall 2026 semester
- Academic Achievement
- Experience in local or student science, technology, engineering and/or math clubs/organizations
- Volunteer leadership achievements
- Knowledge of Zonta International and its programs

APPLICATION PROCESS

All application materials must be received at zontaywinstem@yahoo.com (as either plain PDF or word document) by the printed deadline.

DEADLINE

Applications for the 2026 Ruth Maddox Young Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Award must be received by Zonta club's designee by April 17, 2026.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Ruth Maddox Young Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Award is made possible through generous contributions from Zonta Club of Dallas members and friends of Zonta.