

LAURA SCUDDER GRANT CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS

Laura Scudder was a real person! You may only know her name from her famous line of Potato Chips, but she did so much more. She was truly a renaissance woman.

In the early 1900s, while raising her growing family in Northern California and handling her demanding restaurant business, she studied from borrowed books and successfully passed the California Bar Exam. This was even before she had the right to vote.

In Monterey Park, starting in the 1920s, she operated one of the largest woman-owned businesses in the western United States with multiple factories and fleets of trucks. She introduced innovative packaging methods and new manufacturing techniques. She is credited for introducing wax paper bags to keep her potato chips fresh, a technique soon followed by many others. Her early background as a trained nurse helped her to be mindful of producing food products that were healthy and safe.

She ran her business with compassion for her employees. She made sure that she kept her employees working through the difficult Depression years. She was aware of adversity and did what she could to help others. This remarkable woman parlayed a home-grown potato chip business into a multimillion-dollar food empire that at one time, spanned California, Nevada, Arizona and Oregon.

Laura Scudder (1881-1959), was a nurse, attorney and a business woman most famously known for her potato chips. She was a remarkable woman who had a passion to succeed and who believed that happiness came from giving. The Scudder Family is continuing her philosophy of giving by generously awarding this grant.

Description of the Grant

The Historical Society of Monterey Park is honoring the memory of Laura Scudder, a Monterey Park entrepreneur, by selecting two students to each receive a \$3,000.00 grant. They must be pursuing their education in an institution of higher learning and currently enrolled in the field of **nursing, culinary arts** or **business**. In keeping with the spirit of Laura Scudder, the Scudder family foundation which awards this grant, requires the recipients attend an accredited community college located in the San Gabriel Valley.

Education Qualifications

- 1) Applicant must have completed a minimum one (1) year of basic education courses necessary for completion of his/her chosen field at an accredited community college located in the San Gabriel Valley.
- 2) Applicant must have maintained or exceeded a 2.0 G.P.A. A copy of Official Transcripts from applicant's current college must be provided with this application.
- 3) Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.
- 4) Application must be accompanied by three (3) letters of recommendation from non-family members such as instructors, counselors, ministers, employers or friends. At least one letter **must** be from an instructor of the applicant.

Application

The attached LAURA SCUDDER GRANT APPLICATION is in “fillable” format. After you complete the application, please include your name when you “save” the file. Email the completed application and supporting documents to:

LauraScudderGrant@gmail.com

Method of Selection

The Laura Scudder Grant Committee of the Historical Society of Monterey Park will act as judges. Based on the submitted applications, they will choose the top candidates. The decision will be based on the student’s academic merit, submitted essay and financial need. The selected candidates will be notified of the place and time for the required personal interview. If selected, the students receiving the Scudder Grant will also be required to attend the Laura Scudder Grant Award Luncheon in Monterey Park. They will receive their \$3,000 check directly from John Scudder, grandson of Laura Scudder.

Deadline

Completed application with all required documents must be received on or before the deadline date of **April 26, 2024**. Finalists will be notified of the date, time and place of the interviews.

Email any questions you may have to:

LauraScudderGrant@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Laura Scudder Grant Committee
Historical Society of Monterey Park
P.O. Box 272
Monterey Park, CA 91754