



WINGS OF AMERICA

**2020 BOSTON MARATHON "PURSUIT" PROGRAM
APPLICATION**

FOR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

*"Our young people must have a dream and hope. Running is a means of healing."
-Billy Mills*

Background:

At the 2016 Boston Marathon, the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.), Harvard University, Running Strong for Native American Youth, and Wings of America partnered to celebrate past Native American and First Nations Boston Marathon champions. Through a series of speaking presentations, panel discussions and receptions hosted by Harvard and the B.A.A., the legacy of legendary runners like Ellison "Tarzan" Brown (Narragansett), Tom Longboat (Onondaga), Andrew Sockalexis (Penobscot), Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota) and Patti Dillon (Micmac) came to life. A select few adult runners also got the opportunity to raise money and awareness for Indian organizations by training for and racing the Marathon.

Wings of America has continued this partnership with the B.A.A. and Harvard University to use "Marathon Weekend" as an opportunity for learning, conversation, relationship building and healing. **For a fourth year, Wings will select up to 5 high school juniors to travel with the organization to visit colleges and experience the Boston Marathon.** Through the fundraising efforts of Wings supporters that have agreed to train for the marathon and promote the "Pursuit" Program, selected students will be invited to travel with Wings to participate in:

- College counseling facilitated by Boston-area Universities.
- Speaking engagements, tours and workshops that expose students to the realities of continuing their education.
- The B.A.A. 5K hosted on the Boston Common the Saturday before the Marathon.
- Museum and research institution visits in the Boston area.
- The B.A.A.'s youth event (as volunteers) the Saturday before the Marathon.

Please Contact the Wings office at (505) 982-6761 with questions/confirmations
Or, email the Wings Program Director at: dustin@wingsofamerica.org

Application:

In order to apply for the Pursuit Program, all applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a current High School Junior.
2. Have a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 3.0.
3. Be able to provide proof of membership in a federally or state-recognized Tribe or Alaska Native Corporation in the United States.
4. Be able to provide proof that you have taken or are currently signed up to take either the ACT or SAT.
5. Submit two (2) letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches, mentors and/or bosses who are not related to you.
6. Submit **typed** responses to the following essay questions by Friday, March 13th, 2020 at 5:00pm (MST):

Essay Questions:

1. Briefly explain the role running has played in your life thus far and how you envision the activity being a part of your life as you grow older. (300-350 words)
2. Why do you want to attend university? What challenges must you overcome to attend your dream school? How might a trip to Boston with Wings this April help you overcome these challenges? (350-500 words)

Read this article before answering this question:

<https://newsmaven.io/indiancountrytoday/archive/the-indian-from-rhode-island-who-won-the-boston-marathon-twice-NrH33RcZZUK8Nr3fBhkG8w/>

3. How have things changed for talented Native youth since the time of Ellison “Tarzan” Brown? Why is it important to raise the public’s awareness of the positive achievements of Native peoples? (350-500 words)

Application Material Checklist:

___ Essay question responses ___ ACT or SAT registration confirmation

___ High School Transcript ___ Proof of Tribal enrollment

___ Signed letters of recommendation (2) (sealed or unsealed)

Ways to Submit:

1. Email in PDF format to: alicia@wingsofamerica.org
2. Fax to: (505) 989-8995

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