



**The Sixth Annual Arnold Maeda
Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant
Sponsored by
The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee
and The Manzanar Committee**



INFORMATION PACKET

The Venice Japanese Memorial Monument Committee (VJAMM) and the Manzanar Committee seek to promote and carry on the Legacy of Arnold Maeda by establishing this Grant for college students.

Arnold Maeda was fifteen years old when he and his parents were forcibly removed from their home by Executive Order 9066. They were lined up on the northwest corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Venice Boulevard to be taken as prisoners to one of America's concentration camps at Manzanar. Maeda would go on to become deeply involved in community organizations, including the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee (VJAMM), where he helped create the monument that stands today at the intersection of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards to memorialize the tragic chapter in American history. The memorial honors the 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu who assembled on the sidewalk in April 1942 with only what they could carry.

Arnold Maeda Grant Description

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee with the Manzanar Committee will recognize a student who has demonstrated an understanding of the legacy of Arnold Maeda, who was a role model in the Japanese American community. The Grant Program honors the accomplishments and insights the student has demonstrated in their life. Winning entrants will receive a stipend of \$1,000 to work with the Manzanar Committee. All applicants will be notified of the judging results by the end of January 2026.

Each grant recipient will work with the Manzanar Committee as it plans, prepares, and executes the 2026 Manzanar Pilgrimage which will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Grant recipient responsibilities will include:

- Participation in Grant recipient Orientation and monthly Manzanar Committee meetings (February - April 2026)
- Participation throughout the Pilgrimage weekend (April 24-26, 2026).
- Assist with preparation, execution, and debrief of Manzanar Pilgrimage, Manzanar At Dusk and other assigned duties as determined by the Manzanar Committee
- Participate at Manzanar Committee community events throughout the year
- Assist in recruiting applicants for the following year's Grant.
- Recipients will be assigned to and supervised by a Manzanar Committee member.

This year's recipients, and their work will be recognized at the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Commemoration on April 16, 2026 and the Manzanar Committee's Sue Kunitomi Embrey Student Awards Reception. Their written work may be published on the VJAMM Committee and Manzanar Committee websites, social media accounts, and the Awards Reception Program. VJAMM Committee and the Manzanar Committee will determine the final winners.

Deadline for submission: Friday, January 16, 2026

Focus Areas for Grant Application

Student written work must focus on three or more of the following areas, describing how they have affected their life, and telling what the student has done or is planning to do to change their life or community.

- Who was Arnold Maeda and how was he a role model for the Japanese American community?
- How has Arnold Maeda's legacy influenced you?
- How will you apply the lessons you have learned from Arnold Maeda to your life today?
- Compare and contrast how Arnold lived his life in a U.S. concentration camp with your life today.
- How have working with and providing service to others affected your life?
- How and why would working with the Manzanar Committee Pilgrimage help you better understand Arnold Maeda's life and legacy?
- What about Arnold Maeda inspires you to participate in the Manzanar Pilgrimage?

General Grant Criteria

- 1) The applicant **MUST** be a college student.
- 2) The applicant **MUST** show evidence of how three or more of these focus areas are evident in their life.
- 3) The applicant **MUST** incorporate how their experiences have driven them to make changes in their life or community.
- 4) The applicant **MUST** be willing to work with the Manzanar Committee to work on the 2026 Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.
- 5) The Written project **MUST** use non-euphemistic Terminology (see Euphemisms, Definitions, and Preferred Terminology pages of application).
- 6) The applicant **MUST** complete and sign the media release form.

Written (Essays, Short Story, Poetry) Project Criteria

- 1) This written work should **NOT BE A RESEARCH PAPER** but should show how the events and issues have affected the student, what they have learned and how they have been motivated to make change.
- 2) Print and submit word count verification.
- 3) **MUST CITE** sources using footnotes (citations are not considered part of the word count).
- 4) **MUST** have a bibliography attached with their written work.
- 5) Information about Arnold Maeda's life may be found online and should be cited as a source.

Format of Written Work:

- Essays/short stories should be 250-500 words.
- Poetry does not have to abide by the minimum word count.
- Writing should be double spaced with 1-inch margins.
- Font: Times or Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Pages should be numbered.
- Word count of written work should be included at the end of the project.
- Written work and application may be submitted electronically or sent as a hard copy.
Please be sure to note deadlines for submission.
- If submitting a hard copy, do not send in a folder/binder.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applications, deadlines, and further information, including program rules and updates are available on the VJAMM website: www.venicejamm.org or Manzanar Committee website: <https://manzanarcommittee.org>

For more information or questions, send email to:
Janet Fujii am-grant@manzanarcommittee.org

Entries and applications may be sent by US Mail or sent electronically.

SEND ELECTRONIC ENTRIES & APPLICATIONS TO:
am-grant@manzanarcommittee.org

MAIL HARD COPY ENTRIES & APPLICATIONS TO:

Manzanar Committee
Attn: Arnold Maeda Grant Program
856 Oceanside Street
Wilmington, CA 90744

Electronic submissions must be received by
Friday, January 16, 2026
Hard copy submissions must be postmarked by
Friday, January 16, 2026