

WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT SERVICES FOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

P.O. Box 323, Hamilton VA 20159

www.wiserdc.org

WISER Scholarship for Higher Education

Application materials must be submitted to the WISER Scholarship Committee representative by 10:00 PM on March 15, 2019.

WISER's goals are to improve educational services and promote child advocacy by providing comprehensive resources to children and parents in Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland. WISER members are seasoned professionals and experts in their fields.

The **WISER** Scholarship of Higher Education was established in 2011 by the WISER Board of Directors in collaboration with NCAG (National Collegiate Advocacy Group- a 501(c) (3) organization) to support students who have documented learning challenges and who demonstrate their originality and leadership skills through community service.

For 2019 WISER will be awarding two scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,250.

General Criteria

- Applicant must be a **college bound high school senior** living and attending school in the **DC/MD/VA metro area**
- Applicant must have a **documented learning challenge**
- Applicant must demonstrate **leadership through community service**

Application Requirements

1. **Letter of Documentation of learning challenge(s)** which could include a psycho educational or neuropsychological evaluation, copy of an IEP or school learning/accommodation profile or letter from a school learning specialist.
2. **Application Form, including short answer responses and signed certification statements** [included]
3. **Letter of Recommendation** from guidance counselor, teacher, or community service project supervisor [form included]

The completed application, including documentation of learning challenge, application form, and letter(s) of recommendation must be **received by 10:00 PM on March 15, 2019**, to a WISER Scholarship Committee Representative.

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Application Form

Please fill in or check all areas. An incomplete application will not be considered for the WISER Scholarship.

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Last Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

High School _____
name state zip code

Year of Graduation _____

Higher Education Plans:

- Four Year College or University
- Community or Junior College
- Cooperative Education Program
- Other: _____

Short Answer Questions

The WISER Scholarship committee is interested in hearing your unique perspective. Please respond to each question using your words and your voice.

Your response may be **handwritten, typed, or recorded**. If you choose to handwrite or type your response, please include your full name on each page of your document. If you are interested in submitting a recorded speech, please email wiser@wiserdc.org to let us know which file format you plan to use. Please include “WISER Scholarship Recorded Speech” in the subject line of your e-mail. A member of WISER will respond to let you know if the WISER Scholarship Committee needs you to use a different file format.

Question 1: Please describe the learning challenges you face and the strategies you have used to succeed in school and beyond. [100 - 250 words]

Question 2: WISER understands that leadership comes in many forms. Think about a time when you demonstrated leadership through community service. How did you lead and what did you learn from your experience? [100 - 250 words]

Question 3: The WISER Scholarship Committee is interested in learning more about you. Please write or record a response on a topic of your choice. [100 - 250 words]

Short Answer Checklist

➤ Review

- Read each response out loud or listen to your recorded speech.
- Did you address all parts of the question?
- Does the response sound like you?
- Did you use specific language?
- Do you sound confident?

➤ Proofread

- Did you include your name on each page of your response?
- Did you capitalize each sentence and use appropriate punctuation?
- Did you use spell-check?
- Did you check your draft for errors and typos that may have been missed by spell-check?

➤ Share

- Ask someone who knows you well - a teacher, parent, mentor, or friend - to read your response or listen to your recorded speech.
- Show them this check-list and ask them to help you review and proofread your responses.

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WISER Scholarship of Higher Education *Letter of Recommendation Form*

We appreciate your taking the time to provide this letter of recommendation. The **WISER Scholarship for Higher Education** seeks to recognize **high achieving students who have documented learning challenges and who demonstrate their originality and leadership skills through community service.**

Please fill in or check all areas.

Applicant Name: _____

Please check your professional connection to the applicant:

- Guidance Counselor Community Service Project Supervisor
 Other [Please describe]: _____

Your Full Name: _____

Your Signature: _____

Professional Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Background Information

How long have you known this student and in what context?

Letter of Recommendation

The WISER Scholarship Committee is interested in learning more about the scholarship candidates. Please write whatever you think is important about this student, including a description of leadership and other personal characteristics, as demonstrated in community service or in other related activities.

Please attach your letter of recommendation to this sheet and enclose the form and letter in a sealed envelope. **The applicant will submit your recommendation form and letter with his or her application materials. Application materials must be received by 10:00 PM on March 15, 2019.**

If you have questions regarding this letter of recommendation, please e-mail **wiser@wiserdc.org**. Please include "WISER Scholarship Recommendation Question" in the subject line of your e-mail.

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Privacy Act Advisory Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974(P.L. 93.579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for data. Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised:

1. The authority for the collection of this data is Public Law 93-642.
2. Submitting the information requested is voluntary.
3. The main purpose for which the data will be used is the selection of award winners for the WISER-NCAG Scholarship.
4. Other routine uses of the data are for public affairs and press releases to news media.
5. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for this application.

Statement of Understanding:

The applicant and his/her parent or guardian must sign this application attesting to the following statements:

- We understand that this application is confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of selecting scholarship winners.
- We understand that in applying for this scholarship, we agree to abide by the terms stipulated.
- The information provided in this application will be shared with the Scholarship Selection Task Force and the Executive Director and to any parties as it relates to the selection and maintenance of the scholarship program.

Student's Certification Statement

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information contained in this application is correct and complete, and that the responses to the short answer questions were written by me. I also certify that I have read and understood the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and the Statement of Understanding.

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Certification Statement

I certify, to the best of my knowledge that the information contained in this application is correct. I also certify that I have read and understood the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and the Statement of Understanding.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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WISER Scholarship Application Checklist

The completed application must be received to the WISER Scholarship Selection Committee by **10:00 PM on March 15, 2019.**

The completed application must include:

- Completed Application
 - ✓ Application Form
 - ✓ Short Answer Response to Question 1 (hand written, typed, or recorded)
 - ✓ Short Answer Response to Question 2 (hand written, typed, or recorded)
 - ✓ Short Answer Response to Question 3 (hand written, typed, or recorded)
 - ✓ Signed Student Certification Statement
 - ✓ Signed Parent Certification Statement
- Letter of Documentation of Learning Challenge(s)
- Letter of Recommendation Form(s)

Please ensure that all required materials are mailed to:

WISER
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 323
Hamilton, VA 20159

If you need additional information, please e-mail questions to wiser@wiserdc.org.
Please include “WISER Scholarship Question” in the subject line of your e-mail.