Academic and Community Excellence Scholarship

The "Academic and Community Excellence" scholarship recognizes students that are successful academically and that have dedicated time and effort to bettering their community through volunteer service. This scholarship is for students that are headed to a 2- or 4-year college or university.

Requirements for Applying:

- Student must attend a Washington state high school with an active PTA
    - This can be either a high school PTA or a community PTA that serves the high school. Please check our website www.wastatepta.org/scholarship to make sure your school has one if you are not sure.
- No individual PTA membership is required
- GPA 3.4 or greater
- Post secondary plans must include attending a 2- or 4-year college or university

Students with disabilities who may receive services under IDEA or ADA Section 504 are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. If your disability affects your ability to apply for the scholarship, you are allowed to use your everyday accommodations. There will be a short question at the end that you are encouraged to fill out. This is to help our judges better understand the accommodations that you need to apply for the award.

The Application:

There are three parts to the application. Each part must be completed in full. Your answers should be original. **The use of AI is strictly prohibited**. If the judges feel that something is written by AI, your application will be disqualified.

PART 1 - SHOW

Answer may be a:

- Short video (3 minutes or less)
  -OR-
- A photo or PDF of the item AND a short answer (100 – 250 words)

Show an item that you are most proud of. This could be an award, a class project, an internship, a paper you wrote, a piece of art, or other creative work you did. Explain why you are proud of it. *15 pts*

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PART 2 - EXPERIENCES:

Answer in 100 words or less for each experience. Total of four experiences.

Write about an experience that shows your academic excellence. Include in your answer the following details:

- Group that you worked with or participated in
- What you did
- Length of project
- How this experience impacted you

Complete the above for four different experiences. *10 pts each*

PART 3 VIDEO/ESSAY QUESTIONS:

- Answers may be a short video (5 minutes or less)
  - OR -
- An essay (100 words minimum, 400 words maximum)

1. Explain how you have grown personally and contributed to the growth of others at high school or in the community at large. Examples could include how you were supportive of others, provided opportunities, inspired change, initiated constructive programs, and/or showed effective leadership and compassion. Your response may include experiences from school, work, volunteering, extracurricular activities, vocational training, personal challenges, or family commitments. *25pts*
2. Explain how your future goals will have an impact on your community. *25pts*

If you are a student with a disability, you are encouraged to answer the following:
Did you need assistance with filling out this application? (This is optional)

Applicants may provide additional details about their support needs to inform reviewers. This will be used to help judges better understand the applicant's decisions and how accommodations may have shaped their application.

Judging and Important Information:

Once the scholarship window has closed, the judges will follow the below procedures:

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- The judge will give each question a score based on how many points you can receive.
- Each application will be judged by at least two judges.
- The highest-ranking applications (about 1/3 of applications) will move on to the next round.
- They will then be judged again by a different set of judges.
- The top 10 highest ranking will move forward into the final round.
- All the judges will judge the top 10 and will make a decision on the winners.

All entries are due on March 11, 2027, by midnight.

Questions can be sent to scholarship@wastatepta.org.

Winners will be announced in mid-April. We will only contact the winners.

Thank you for applying for the WSPTA Academic and Community Excellence Scholarship!

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