My Own Way Scholarship

The "My Own Way" scholarship is to recognize students that are not going down a typical college pathway. They are looking to study the arts, attend a technical school*, or enter a course of study that does not require a 4-year degree.

Requirements for Applying:

- Must be a senior in high school
- No minimum GPA requirement
- No individual PTA membership is required
- 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.
- Students must plan to attend an arts school, technical school*, or other course of study that does not require a 4-year degree. Alternatively, they may enter a 2-year university program that offers these types of courses.

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 of less than 100 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 two experiences.

Share two experiences that you have had that helped you decide to go down your chosen pathway (could be an internship, job, or volunteer experience). 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

Answer in 100 words or less for each experience. *20 pts*

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. Please provide details on your background and motivation to go into the arts or trades. What do you hope to give back to the community when you finish schooling? *25 pts*

2. Explain how your future goals will have an impact on your community. *25 pts*

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

Applicants may provide additional details about their support needs to inform reviewers. This is 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:

- 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.

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- 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 My Own Way Scholarship!

*Technical School definition: Students attending institutions that train in specific professions are considered eligible if the institutions are licensed and accredited and eligible for FAFSA or WASFA and have proper professional recognition.

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