



2018/2019 School Year – National Help America See Scholarship for A Blind Student

This scholarship is open nationally to high school seniors who are considered totally blind. The interpretation of this is someone who has no light perception and considered a person who cannot see.

The purpose of this scholarship is to help students who are blind reach their full potential. This will further allow the students to build confidence and self-esteem as they prepare to begin their college education.

The recipient of this scholarship will be selected by an independent group of judges to be determined by the Foundation For Sight & Sound, a 501c3 Not for Profit Corporation.

The scholarship will award one student per school year with a \$1000 scholarship towards the student's college or vocational school of choice and WindowEyes software.

The essay should highlight the student's creativity, research and life experiences. It **MUST** also include, but is not limited to, responses to the following questions that pertain to the student's situation:

- What is blindness and how does it apply to you?
- How have your peers and teachers supported your academic achievements?
- How has blindness affected your productivity in school?
- What challenges do you face as a blind student? How are you overcoming those challenges?
- What accessibility aids do you feel have or will increase your ability to learn?
- List the ways accessibility aids will improve your education, work and social goals.
- Explain what new activities you will engage in or pursue during college.
- How do you expect your life to change once you start college and pursue your career goals? Do you think your social, educational, work, and interpersonal relationships will be different?
- What are you looking to accomplish with your college degree in your life and how this award will help you achieve your goals for the future?
- How will you advocate for self-determination for students and other individuals who are blind?

All essays **MUST** be between 500-1500 words. They can be submitted in braille or in print. Print submissions should be single-spaced in 12-point Arial font with 1" margins.

Additional documents required with the essay:

1. A completed scholarship application
2. Photo of applicant
3. A letter signed by Ophthalmologist/Optomtrist stating level of blindness.
4. Letter of Determination of Legally Blind Status from State and/or Federal Government
5. Copy of college or vocational school acceptance letter (if received)
6. A signed photo release form (if student is a minor, then form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian). It is requested parents sign one as well.

7. Two (2) letters of reference, one from a teacher, a guidance counselor, coach etc., and one individual outside of school and family (i.e. employer, community leader, college professor, etc.) Depending on the type of reference, each letter should include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Why they recommend student for this scholarship
 - b. A brief description of the student's social involvement in school and in the community
 - c. Details of the student's academic performance
 - d. Extracurricular activities

Judges will base their decisions on three overall criteria:

1. The writing quality of the essay, including grammar & punctuation.
2. The content – (i.e.) essay discusses ALL questions, as stated above, that pertain to students situation.
3. Student's activities and involvement in school, community and home.

Please email your essay, application and all other required documents, in Word and/or PDF format, to: info@fssny.org

**Braille submissions can be mailed to Foundation For Sight & Sound, P.O. Box 1245, Smithtown, NY 11787

Important Information Regarding This Scholarship:

- **DEADLINE to submit essay/scholarship packet: SUNDAY MAY 26, 2019**
- **Applications received after the deadline will not be considered**
- Winners will be selected and notified approximately by **FRIDAY, June 21, 2019**
- No employees or family members of the Foundation may apply to this scholarship
- All essay's and supporting materials submitted become the property of Foundation For Sight & Sound and are considered permissible to use for marketing and fundraising purposes.

For questions or additional information about the Scholarship, please call (888)580-8886.

The Foundation For Sight & Sound does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or military status in its selection process.

For more information about the **Foundation For Sight & Sound** or our programs, please visit our website: www.fssny.org