



## 2018/2019 School Year - National Help America Hear Scholarship



---

The scholarship is open nationally to high school seniors who have a hearing loss, which requires the use of hearing aid(s) in their daily life.

The purpose of this scholarship is to help students with hearing challenges reach their full potential by giving them the gift of sound. This will further allow the students to build confidence and self-esteem as they prepare to begin their college or vocational school 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, currently wearing hearing aid(s). Cochlear users may enter this and will only receive the financial award.

The scholarship recipient will receive **two** state-of-the-art *ReSound Hearing Aids* which best fit his/her hearing loss, along with a \$1000 Scholarship to the student's college or vocational school of choice.

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 student's situation:

- What is hearing loss?
- How have your peers and teachers supported your academic achievements?
- Explain how your hearing loss has influenced your productivity in school?
- What challenges do you face as a hearing impaired student? How are you overcoming those challenges?
- Do you perceive hearing aids have or will increase your ability to learn?
- List the ways hearing aids will improve your education, work and social goals. Explain what new activities you will engage in or pursue with new hearing aids.
- Upon receiving new hearing aids, how do you expect your life to change? What changes will you hope to achieve? Do you think your 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 change for self-determination for students and individuals who are hearing impaired?

All essays **MUST** be between 500-1500 words, 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 copy of student's Hearing Instruments Evaluation, no more than 6 months old
4. Copy of college or vocational school acceptance letter (if received)
5. A signed photo release (if student is a minor, then form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian). It is requested parents sign one as well.
6. A signed HIPAA form (if student is a minor, then must be signed by a parent/legal guardian)
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 4 overall criteria:

1. The writing quality of the essay, which includes grammar and punctuation.
2. The content – (i.e.) essay discusses ALL questions, as stated above, that pertain to students situation
3. The student will benefit from the use of hearing aids
4. 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](mailto:info@fssny.org)**

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 Foundation For Sight & Sound, Resound or any other hearing healthcare industry entity may apply to this scholarship
- All essays 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 Help America Hear 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 **Help America Hear**, please visit our website: [www.fssny.org](http://www.fssny.org)