

# WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT SERVICES FOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

P.O. Box 323, Hamilton VA 20159

[www.wiserdc.org](http://www.wiserdc.org)

## **WISER Scholarship for Higher Education**

**Application materials must be submitted to the WISER Scholarship Committee representative by 10:00 PM on April 9, 2021.**

**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 to support students who have documented learning challenge and who demonstrate their originality and leadership skills through community service.

**For 2021 WISER will be awarding two scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000.**

**Additionally, scholarship winner(s) will have free lifetime access to the online study skills course *Better Grades in Less Time* by SMITH RIVAS Study Skills & Academic Coaching.**

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### ***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**

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### ***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]. A maximum of **one** recommendation will be accepted. Only one letter of recommendation it will not be considered.

The completed application, including documentation of learning challenge, application form, and letter of recommendation must be **received by 10:00 PM on April 9, 2021**, 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](mailto: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 April 9, 2021.**

If you have questions regarding this letter of recommendation, please e-mail [wiser@wiserdc.org](mailto: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:

1. We understand that this application is confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of selecting scholarship winners.
2. We understand that in applying for this scholarship, we agree to abide by the terms stipulated.
3. 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.
4. We understand and agree to allow the applicants name, image and educational goals and activities to be used by WISER to promote 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 April 9, 2020.**

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

**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](mailto:wiser@wiserdc.org).  
Please include “WISER Scholarship Question” in the subject line of your e-mail.