

## **Nevada Hands & Voices 2018 Scholarship**

Nevada Hands & Voices is proud to offer two scholarships for the deaf or hard of hearing high school graduates of 2018. You must apply in order to be considered. You can strengthen your application by:

- Adhering to the eligibility criteria and the submission guidelines.
- Preparing your application and essay in a thorough and thoughtful manner.
- Completing every section of the application.
- Submitting a recent audiogram or MAPping report.
- Thoughtfully selecting those who will submit recommendations for you and requesting that they follow the guidelines for these letters.

### **Scholarship Criteria**

In order to be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Hearing loss must have been diagnosed prior to age eighteen.
- Hearing loss can be bilateral or unilateral. Applicants must have an unaided Pure-Tone Average (PTA) of 35dB or greater in either ear in the speech frequencies of 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz. Applicants with cochlear implants meet this eligibility requirement.
- Formula for calculating PTA:
  - On the unaided audiogram, look at the results for the better hearing ear at 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz and add those three numbers together, then divide that total by three. The result is the Pure-Tone Average (PTA). To be eligible for this award, the applicants PTA must be 35dB or greater.
- Applicant must be graduating from a Nevada high school in 2018 with either a Standard or Adjusted Diploma.
- Minimum GPA of 2.50.
- Applicant must be enrolled in or plan to attend a University, Community College, Technical School, Certification Program, or other form of higher education upon graduation (summer or fall 2018 enrollment is required).

### **Scholarship Application Submission Instructions**

Please use this as a checklist to help ensure that your application is complete:

- All pages of the application and support materials should be submitted on 8 ½" X 11" paper.
- The application and all attachments must be completed in English.
- All pages should be double-spaced and single-sided.
- Every page of the application must be completed and the application must be signed.
- For purposes of verifying hearing loss:
  - All applicants must submit an unaided audiogram performed within the last 3 years.
  - Applicants with cochlear implants may submit their most recent MAPping report (first page only).
- Official transcripts for the most recent two years completed of high school.
  - In the event that your school will release transcripts only directly to Nevada Hands & Voices, please have it delivered to the address noted below.
- Verification of the student's application for higher education.
  - A readable photo copy of a letter or receipt of online application is acceptable.

- Student Essay, as indicated in the application (maximum of two double-spaced, single-sided pages).
- Recommendation from an unrelated educational professional, such as a teacher (maximum of two double-spaced, single-sided pages). See page 5 of this packet for instructions for those submitting letters of recommendation.
- Personal recommendation from a non-family member (maximum of two single-sided pages).

NOTE: Please do NOT include any additional information, such as extra letters of recommendation, photos or tax returns; all such items will not be considered and will be destroyed. In addition, please do NOT include your social security number anywhere on your application. If it is included on transcripts that are sent by you, or on your audiogram or MAPping report, please black it out.

### **Scholarship Application Deadline**

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2018. All materials must arrive together in one package by 5pm on March 31, 2018. Only transcripts sent from the educational institution will be accepted separately from the application, and must be received by April 7, 2018.

Application package should be mailed/delivered to:

#### **Nevada Hands & Voices**

Attn: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 570  
Sparks, NV 89432

Nevada Hands & Voices does NOT accept responsibility for delays or delivery errors on the part of delivery services; applicants are encouraged to submit the application well in advance of the deadline. Nevada Hands & Voices recommends that applicants who want delivery confirmation should send the application with a service that can require a signature upon delivery. Delivery of the application is the responsibility of the applicant.

Faxed applications will NOT be accepted under any circumstances. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications will not be returned for any reason.

Scholarship recipients will be announced no later than April 30, 2018.

## Nevada Hands & Voices Scholarship Application – 2018

### Identifying Information (please type or print clearly)

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(First) (M.I.) (Last)

Date of Birth—Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female

Applicant lives with (check any that apply):  Self  Father  Mother  Spouse

Correspondence should be addressed to: \_\_\_\_\_

(First Name) (Last Name)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number to reach the applicant, if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact method:  TTY  Text  VP  Voice  VO

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Applicant Information (Please type or print clearly)

Age when hearing loss was diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Pure Tone Average: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Cumulative GPA (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ on a scale of: \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. 4 or 5)

Diploma:  Standard  Adjusted  Other \_\_\_\_\_

What method of communication is used in daily communications and educational environs?

Check all that apply.

- Spoken Language
- Speech Reading
- Sign Language System (ASL, Signed English, Finger Spelling, etc.)
- Cued Speech
- Use of Note taker
- Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART)
- Oral Interpreter(s)
- Sign Language Interpreter(s)
- Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Awards & Honors—Please list up to five honors, recognitions and/or awards received for academic work and/or extracurricular activities (do NOT attach copies of awards or recognition):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

College/University/Technical School/Certification Program application/enrollment for 2017-2018:

Name of School/Program you expect to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of graduation from selected college/university: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

Potential career or professional plans: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Student/Applicant Essay**

Please describe how being deaf/hard of hearing has impacted you, and how you will achieve your current and future goals. Tell us where you see yourself in your life in one year and in ten years.

### **Essay Option 1 (open to all applicants)**

Your essay may be written in a clear hand or typed. The essay may be no more than two double-spaced, single-sided pages.

### **Essay Option 2 (for students whose primary language is ASL)**

Nevada Hands & Voices wants equal access for all deaf/hands of hearing students. As such, if your primary language is some form of sign language, Nevada Hands & Voices will allow a video essay. The question is the same for both options. Please review the criteria for video essay submission.

### **Criteria for Video Essay (presented in sign only)**

- Sign Language must be your primary language
- 15-20-minute video essay (required content only)
- Recorded on DVD-R or link to unlisted Youtube.com link
  - Label disc or Youtube.com upload with your name and sign language/system (ASL, PSE, SEE) that is being used
- Background in video needs to be plain, such as a bare wall or plain paper to cover visual distractions
- Shirt must be plain with no designs and/or words (please wear a shirt/blouse that contrasts with you skin color. i.e., if you have dark skin wear a light color shirt/blouse; If you have light skin wear a darker color shirt/blouse)
- Review video essay to ensure you are framed well so your signs are visually clear and your hands are not cut off
- No visual aids and/or props are acceptable
- Please stand (not sit) while presenting your essay
- Your video will not be returned. Please make a copy before sending if you would like one for your records

## **Student/Applicant Agreement**

This certifies that I understand that if I am selected to receive a Nevada Hands & Voices College Scholarship Award for the 2018-2019 academic year, I give permission to Nevada Hands & Voices to release information stating this fact to the media and/or to Nevada Hands & Voices constituents. The receipt of the Scholarship is contingent upon my attendance at an accredited College, University, Technical School or Certification Program in the forthcoming school year. I understand that payment of the scholarship will be made directly to the higher education program. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information contained in this application is true and accurate.

Submitted and signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (if younger than 18): \_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Recommender:**

You are receiving this recommendation form on the behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ who is an applicant for a Nevada Hands & Voices Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year. The applicant must meet all of the following criteria to be considered for the scholarship:

- Hearing loss must have been diagnosed prior to age eighteen.
- Hearing loss can be unilateral or bilateral. Applicants must have an unaided Pure-Tone Average (PTA) of 35dB or greater in the better hearing ear in the speech frequencies of 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz. Applicants with cochlear implants meet this eligibility requirement.

Formula for calculating the PTA:

On the unaided audiogram, look at the results for the better hearing ear at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz and add those three numbers together, then divide that total by three. The result is the Pure Tone Average. To be eligible for this award, the applicant's PTA must be 35dB's or greater.

- Applicant must be enrolled in or plan to attend a University, Community College, Technical School, Certification Program, or other form of higher education upon graduation (summer or fall 2018 enrollment is required)

This recommendation is required for the applicant's application to be complete.

In a letter – a maximum of two double-spaced, single-side pages – preferably on your business or organization's letterhead, please answer the following questions:

- What is your relationship to the applicant and how long have you know him or her?
- Please share your impression of this applicant's ability to succeed in a University, Community College, Technical School, Certification program, or other form of higher education program.
- Help the Nevada Hands & Voices Scholarship Committee to know who the applicant is, and why you believe that he or she should be considered for a Scholarship.

**Nevada Hands & Voices  
2018-2019 Scholarship Application**

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

***Who Are We?***

Nevada Hands & Voices is a Nevada non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as the professionals who serve them. We are a parent-driven, parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods. Our diverse membership includes those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing impaired and their families who communicate orally, with signs, cue, and/or combined methods. We exist to help our children reach their highest potential.

***Do I qualify for this scholarship?***

You qualify to apply if you meet the following criteria:

- You were diagnosed as deaf/HH prior to age eighteen.
- You will be graduating from Nevada High School in 2018 with a Standard or Adjusted Diploma with a GPA of 2.50 or higher.
- You are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, with a unilateral or bilateral hearing loss (see application for hearing loss criteria).
- You are enrolled in or plan to attend a College, University, Community College, Technical School, Certification Program or other form of higher education upon graduation (Summer or Fall 2018 application or enrollment is required)

***When is the application due?***

Completed applications are due no later than March 31, 2018.

***Where do I send the application once it is complete?***

Please send the completed application directly to:

**Nevada Hands & Voices**  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 570  
Sparks, NV 89432

***Can I contact someone if I have questions?***

Yes! Please feel free to contact Nevada Hands & Voices at any time.  
Email: [info@nvhandsandvoices.org](mailto:info@nvhandsandvoices.org)

We will respond to your email as quickly as possible.

***When will the scholarship be awarded?***

The scholarship winners will be announced no later than April 30, 2018. All awards will be submitted directly to the higher education program on behalf of the student. Proof of enrollment will be required prior to any payments.