

Nevada Hands & Voices 2020 Scholarship

Nevada Hands & Voices is proud to offer scholarships for deaf or hard of hearing high school graduates planning to advance their education in 2020. 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 Cochlear implant 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.
- Formula for calculating PTA:
 - On the unaided audiogram look at thresholds for the worse 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). Applicant must be graduating from a Nevada high school in 2020 with either a Standard or Adjusted Diploma.
- Minimum GPA of 2.50.
- Applicant have applied or been accepted to attend a University, Community College, Technical School, Certification Program, or other form of higher education upon graduation (summer or fall 2020 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, with the exception of video student essays which may be in a signed language.
- 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 Cochlear implant mapping report (first page only).
- Official transcripts for the most recent two years of high school completed.
 - If your school will only release transcripts directly to Nevada Hands & Voices, please have them delivered to the address noted below.
- Verification of the student's application or acceptance to higher education institution.

- A readable photo copy of a letter or receipt of online application or acceptance is allowable.
- Student Essay, as indicated in the application (maximum of two double-spaced, single-sided pages) or a signed video submitted by DVD-R or an unlisted YouTube link.
- Recommendation from an educational professional, such as a teacher, who is not related to the applicant (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 Cochlear implant mapping report, please black it out.

Scholarship Application Deadline

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2020. All materials must arrive together in one package. Only transcripts sent from the educational institution will be accepted separately from the application and must be postmarked by April 3, 2019.

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.

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 24, 2020.

Nevada Hands & Voices Scholarship Application – 2020

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: • Phone • Text • Email

Email Address: _____

Applicant Information (Please type or print clearly)

Age when hearing loss was diagnosed: _____

Pure Tone Average Right: _____ Left: _____

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

Diploma: • Standard • Adjusted • Other _____

What communication methods are used in daily communications and educational environments?
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 2019-2020:

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/hard 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 your 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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 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 worse hearing ear
- Applicant must have applied or been accepted to attend a university, community college, technical school, certification program, or other form of higher education upon graduation (summer or fall 2020 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 known 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 2020 Scholarship Application

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is Nevada Hands & Voices?

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 2020 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 2020 application or enrollment is required).

When is the application due?

Completed applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2020

Can I contact someone if I have questions?

Yes. Please feel free to contact Nevada Hands & Voices at any time by email at 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 24, 2020. 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.