



## Evaluation Criteria for Awarding the 2016 NCBW RMAC Scholarships

We seek to award scholarships to candidates who are performing well academically **AND** who demonstrate character in their life.

This year, the **NCBW RMAC** is sponsoring competition for two scholarships: two \$1,000 scholarships for two Female African American students who are attending either Virginia State University or Virginia Union University who intend to begin college in the fall of 2016.

We are offering these scholarships based upon two different sets of criteria (one called Green and the other, Blue). You may apply to either set, but not both.

1. **Green Criteria:** We will give scholarships in which creativity, mission mindedness, acts of kindness, and other factors count more highly than academics. One \$1,000 scholarship may be awarded in this category based upon the following weighted criteria, in order of the greater weight to the lesser weight:

- creativity, mission mindedness, or acts of kindness
- spiritual mindedness
- leadership
- academic performance
- heart for learning
- activities and interests

2. **Blue Criteria:** We will give one scholarship in which academics are the greatest weight in our selection. One \$1,000 scholarship may be awarded in this category based upon the following weighted criteria, in order of the greater weight to the lesser weight:

- academic performance
- spiritual mindedness
- leadership
- creativity, mission mindedness, or acts of kindness
- heart for learning
- activities and interests

As for your submission itself, we are also looking at your overall presentation. In this regard, we review and evaluate:

- Your spelling
- Your grammar
- Your vigor of expression and your passion for your topic
- Your neatness

**We will evaluate your submission fully in all of these areas.**

**1. Criteria:** We will evaluate your scholarship submission based on **one set** of the criteria noted above, and the specific inputs you offer as described below. Therefore, **you must indicate in your application which scholarship criteria (Blue or Green—see the first page) you are seeking to meet.** Then, complete the Scholarship Application which will include the following points. (NOTE: The following are NOT listed in order of importance or weight for evaluation.)

**a. Academic Achievement/Performance:** Submit your standardized test scores from the SAT, ACT, or **other standardized test or other measures of your academic performance.** We are particularly interested in your overall academic performance, however best measured.

**b. Contribution to the Community:**

**(1) Submit a list of your Extracurricular Activities.** We are not looking for the number of activities, but the variety, balance, depth, and overall significance of these activities.

**(2) Submit at MOST three (3) reference letters** with at MOST 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) from teachers and leaders in programs you've been involved in that can confirm your involvement in the activities you've listed and that, to the extent possible, attest to your unique contributions in these areas. These letters should further attest to your creativeness, mission mindedness, or acts of kindness.

**NOTES:**

These letters ought not to be mere "character reference" letters. They should attest to specific contributions you have made, specific activities you have engaged in, specific achievements that have benefited—or that show some promise in the future of benefiting society. In other words, these letters are primarily for the sake of acquiring outside confirmation that you have really done or achieved what you claim to have done or achieved in your scholarship application.

We only need one letter attesting to your contributions in any one activity. In other words, for example, if you're going to send us letters from two teachers in your school, make sure they speak about different aspects of your participation.

The best letter will describe specific contributions you have made and/or specific observations that your reference has seen that demonstrate the contributions to which s/he is referring.

**c. Future Plans: Submit a personal essay** with at MOST 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) along these lines:

- What I want to do with my life
- Why I want to go to college
- Why I want to go to *this* college

## COMMENTS:

Our mission emanates from the desire to advocate for women in leadership roles, gender equity, and women and girls who love in poverty, suffer with mental illness, and are victims of domestic violence.

If your essay is to win, we expect it will probably include at least REFERENCES to matters like:

- (a) Your desire, dreams, and aspirations
- (b) The pursuit of excellence in life and education
- (c) Women in Leadership and Gender equity

Another way to look at this: we expect that you will discuss how you see your future plans and aspirations fitting in with, or pursuing, the purpose driven life.

We don't want you to try to say only what you think we want to hear! Put another way: if we get the impression that you're trying to "buy our affection," we WILL downgrade you. We want you to speak with YOUR words, in YOUR way, about YOUR convictions. When we expressed ourselves about our desires, we used words and phrases that we wanted to use. Hopefully they mean something to you; but we certainly don't expect you to express yourself in the same, or even a similar, manner.

**d. Clear Expression or Contribution:** Regardless of whether you choose the Green or Blue criteria, you must choose to submit either a project or a second essay [do NOT submit both] as follows:

**(1) Submit a copy of your best project** in the form of a review, digest, portfolio, etc. that consists of at MOST 3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) concerning any math, science, performing or visual arts related discipline of interest or concern to you. We are interested in seeing how well you can share your interest and passion from a previous effort, uninfluenced by the pressure of this scholarship competition and in a context that is less dependent on a written essay. [NOTE: You are free to share specific results or a summary of results of experiments, proofs, applications, tests, observations, trials, performances, and/or exhibits related to the physical sciences, math, or the arts.] A copy of any awards, recognition and prizes are welcome. We can only accept two-dimensional submissions (such as photographs of the actual work, reports, written descriptions, etc.) or audio/video recordings (such as CD/DVD or audio cassette). Total submissions for this project(s) should not exceed 3 pages if written or at most 10 minutes if presented via audio/video. NOTHING CAN BE RETURNED, so please do not send any original works, awards, etc.

OR

**(2) Submit a copy of your best argumentative essay** to date with at MOST 3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) concerning any subject of interest or concern to you. We are interested in seeing how well you can express yourself in a "normal" context, uninfluenced by the pressure of possibly "winning" or "losing" a scholarship. [NOTE: If you do not have a pre-existing essay of the length we are seeking, then please *edit* one as necessary to meet our length

requirements. Your essay should include a bibliography, endnotes, etc., of course, but these scholarly devices do not count toward the page limit. The page limit applies to the body of the essay only.]

**b. Scholarship Photograph:** Submit a photograph with your application. Your photograph will not be given to the application review board and, therefore, will not be used in the application review process for selecting scholarship winners. However, photographs of the scholarship winners only will be used to announce the winners after they have been selected.

**c. Assignment of Rights & Consent to Publish Scholarship Information:** Sign and submit the **Assignment of Rights and Consent to Publish Scholarship Information form** included with the application. By signing this form, you give us the right to publish your photograph(s) and basic information regarding your past accomplishments and future plans in the event you are a scholarship winner.

**3. Deadline:** For scholarships for the school year beginning in 2016, **all submissions listed above must be emailed NO LATER THAN March 15, 2016.** We will announce winners at our Annual Phenomenal Women Gala and be awarded the Edna Beach Education Scholarship in April, 2016.

**4. Questions:** If you have any questions regarding your submission or criteria, please email [crwysong8455@gmail.com](mailto:crwysong8455@gmail.com) or call 804-625-6349 and ask for the scholarship coordinator.