



Character Excellence Scholarship

\$1000 for College or Trade School



The Character Council of WNY and Harvest Time Partners Foundation is pleased to offer our Scholarship Program to high school seniors entering an accredited college or trade school in the academic year following their graduation. Students from public, private, parochial or home schools may apply. Applicant must live or attend school in one of the following counties of NY: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans or Wyoming. Scholarships are payable directly to the college or trade-school to be used for tuition or related expenses billed by the school. Checks will not be sent directly to students. This scholarship is based solely on a student's understanding and demonstration of how positive character impacts their life and future success. **All students are encouraged to apply.**

SUBMISSION CHECK LIST

Please submit the following as a packet, postmarked by March 1ST. Late entries may be disqualified.

- _____ **Student Essay: (Page 2 for instructions)** Please **DO NOT INCLUDE** your name on the essay pages. All essays will be numbered in the order they are received to ensure fairness in the review process.
- _____ **Contact Cover Sheet: (page 3)** Pay special attention your email is clearly written as this is how we will communicate with you regarding your application.
- _____ **Two Letters of Reference: (pages 4 & 5)** One from a family member or friend; and one from a Teacher, Employer, Coach or Mentor. These are to be submitted *WITH* your application, not sent separately.

IMPORTANT

The Character Council of WNY's Character Trait Reference Sheet is found on page 6 of the application. In addition to using the trait sheet for your essay, please provide your reference writers a copy of it along with the reference letter cover sheet.

**Complete application packet needs to be postmarked by March 1st and sent to: Character Council of WNY
PO Box 613
Hamburg, NY 14075
Attention: Scholarship Committee**

Multiple Scholarships will be awarded!

Recipients will be announced in April
Honorees, their reference writers and 2 guests will be invited to attend our
Celebration of Character Awards Dinner held in May

Questions please contact Vanessa Rehac, Scholarship Committee
Preferred contact: CCWNYscholarship@gmail.com (or 716-316-2933 if needed)

Character Excellence Scholarship

\$1000 for College or Trade School

**The applicant's grade point average and/or academic standing will not be factored into selection process.
We encourage students of all academic abilities to apply.**

THE STUDENT ESSAY: Please read carefully.

Applicant should review the included *Character Trait Reference Sheet* (Page 6) for use in the writing of their essay. Our **scoring rubric** will gauge how the applicant **conveys their understanding of and application of their chosen character traits in their life**. The essay should explain in what way these traits have served them in their life up to this point, and how they will serve them in the future. The first round is based on the essay alone. The Student Essay along with their reference letters will be considered in the final selection round.

ESSAY PROMPT

Every person has a story. Our stories are written from moments, experiences, and choices we make each day. Big or small, our story plays a role in the stories of others. No one is perfect. We all have struggles and successes; things we did right and those we'd improve; times we are proud of and those we'd like to change. **The Character Council of WNY and Harvest Time Partners Foundation** believe the practice of positive character has a direct impact on the way each person's story evolves. This scholarship is about **You** and **how you feel character has shaped your story** in the past, now in the present, and moving forward.

Keeping the above in mind, tell us your story.

PART 1 (intro and body of essay)

- Think of **two examples** in which you feel the demonstration of character impacted a situation or experience in your life.
- **Each example must include at least one core or companion character trait** from the list provided.
- **Be specific in explaining how the chosen trait(s) impacted** the experience and its outcome. This could be how you applied the trait, or perhaps how someone else displayed the trait in a way that had a major influence on you.

PART 2 (conclusion)

Success goes beyond a dictionary definition and it is different to each of us. Reflecting on how character has shaped your story thus far, the conclusion of your essay should tell us **how character will impact your future and help you achieve your vision of success.**

Parameters of Student Essay:

- No more than 750 words in length, double-spaced. Hand written essays will be accepted, typed is preferred.
- Include 2 examples that specifically reference and demonstrate understanding of a **minimum of 2 traits** from the list in this application.
- Reflect your authentic voice, and show a genuine understanding of your chosen character traits' impact on you. Note: essays written using AI (ChatGPT) will not be considered.
- Place equal emphasis to both part one and part two of your essay.
- **DO NOT** include your name on the essay pages, please.

Every person has a story...and everyone's story has significance. *We can't wait to hear YOURS!*



Character Excellence Scholarship

\$1000 for College or Trade School



Student Contact Cover Sheet *[Please type or print neatly]* To type directly into the form, please open in ADOBE READER.
If you do not have Adobe you can download it free from <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Student Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (s): _____

High School: _____ County _____

Colleges/Universities/ Trade Schools applied to: (limit to top 5)

Intended Major/Career Goal: _____
.....

This information will not be considered in the selection process. In the event you are selected to receive a scholarship the following information will be used to create your bio for the program. Please do not include extra pages. Select those things that are most important to you and help tell your story.

Participation in activities/clubs/organizations (school or non-school related) that you are most proud of. (Max of 3):

Volunteer work you would like us to recognize:

Do you have any awards or recognitions you would like us to mention. (Max of 3):

Something you would like to share about yourself (interests, hobbies...something that adds to your story):

Anything else you would like us to mention?



Character Excellence Scholarship

\$1000 for College or Trade School



Reference Letter Cover Sheet (Family Member or Friend)

Please attach to letter. If you are unable to attach, please include all the following information on your letter.

Student Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Your Mailing address: _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Signature: _____

Considering the definitions of the 12 qualities the Character Council of WNY embraces, we ask you to **pick just two** and tell us specifically in what manner the applicant has demonstrated each character trait and in what way has it benefitted yourself or others. We are certain your student may demonstrate several or all of the traits listed, but please limit your choice to only 2 traits for the purpose of your letter.

Attach this sheet to your letter of reference, and **return to the student**. Your letter must be forwarded with the balance of the student's documentation. *Please DO NOT send your letter directly to the Character Council of Western New York.*

Postmark deadline for student submission is March 1st. Please return your letter to the student prior to that date.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In the event the student is selected to receive a scholarship, you will be invited as our guest to attend the awards dinner in May with your student. An invitation will be mailed after the recipients are announced.



Character Excellence Scholarship

\$1000 for College or Trade School



Reference Letter Cover Sheet (Teacher, Coach, Employer or Mentor)

Please attach to letter. If you are unable to attach, please include all the following information on your letter.

Student Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Your Mailing address: _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Signature: _____

Considering the definitions of the 12 qualities the Character Council of WNY embraces, we ask you to **pick just two** and tell us specifically in what manner the applicant has demonstrated each character trait and in what way has it benefitted yourself or others. We are certain your student may demonstrate several or all of the traits listed, but please limit your choice to only 2 traits for the purpose of your letter.

Attach this sheet to your letter of reference, and **return to the student**. Your letter must be forwarded with the balance of the student's documentation. *Please DO NOT send your letter directly to the Character Council of Western New York.*

Postmark deadline for student submission is March 1st. Please return your letter to the student prior to that date.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In the event the student is selected to receive a scholarship, you will be invited as our guest to attend the awards dinner in May with your student. An invitation will be mailed after the recipients are announced.

Character Excellence Scholarship

\$1000 for College or Trade School

The Character Council of Western New York



CORE Character Traits

Compassion vs. Insensitivity

is caring for ourselves and others and supporting people during times of need.

Civility vs. Rudeness

is approaching others calmly, showing respect in my words and actions regardless of differences.

Determination vs. Avoidance

is staying focused and overcoming challenges to finish a goal, task or objective.

Generosity vs. Selfishness

is giving freely of my time, talents and possessions without expecting anything in return.

Gratitude vs. Ungratefulness

is expressing thanks and appreciation for the people, places and things in my life.

Humility vs. Arrogance

is limiting my feelings of self-importance and recognizing that everyone has strengths and limitations.

Integrity vs. Deceitfulness

is adhering to strong moral values and doing the right thing in a transparent and honest way.

Optimism vs. Pessimism

is embracing a mindset of positivity and hopefulness that a situation will result favorably.

Respect vs. Disrespect

is recognizing, accepting and demonstrating the value of people, places and things through my words and actions.

Responsibility vs. Irresponsibility

is knowing and doing what is necessary to meet my obligations.

Self-Control vs. Unrestrained

is being mindful of my thoughts, feelings and behaviors and exhibiting restraint to yield a better outcome.

Wisdom vs. Ignorance

is reflecting on experiences and using knowledge gained to make good decisions.

The Companion Traits below support or otherwise demonstrate the core trait "in action"

Self-Control	Civility	Generosity	Humility	Determination	Wisdom
January	February	March	April	May	June
Discipline	Fairness	Charity	Modesty	Fortitude	Creativity
Temperance	Justice	Service	Unselfish	Perseverance	Curiosity
Attentiveness	Cooperation	Citizenship	Meeekness	Persistence	Knowledge
Moderation	Citizenship	Giving	Realistic	Courage	Understanding
Chasity	Deference	Sharing	Patience	Endurance	Discernment
Patience	Tolerance	Kindness	Self-Awareness	Adaptability	Foresight
Dignity	Peacefulness	Helpfulness	Service	Grit	Vision
Integrity	Optimism	Respect	Responsibility	Gratitude	Compassion
July	August	September	October	November	December
Honesty	Enthusiasm	Tolerance	Accountability	Thankfulness	Love
Truthfulness	Positivity	Acceptance	Dependability	Appreciation	Understanding
Trustworthiness	Hope	Attentiveness	Diligence	Recognition	Empathy
Morality	Resilience	Punctuality	Commitment	Honor	Caring
Reliability	Contentment	Esteem	Obligation	Being Present	Friendship
Transparency	Faith	Recognition	Promise	Mindfulness	Forgiveness
Fidelity	Belief	Courtesy	Duty	Acknowledgement	Kindness

*Months are listed as a reference. The Character Council of WNY will highlight a particular trait each month. Your organization may opt to create your own schedule based on your needs.

Companion Traits