

Note to Students

Attached is your packet of information needed for this essay contest—the application (consists of 3 pages); criteria for the WREA scholarship; and a copy of the judges evaluation guide.

Please read everything carefully and follow the instructions. Return all the necessary materials to your counselor by March 31 as your essay and application will be picked up the morning of March 31. Do not be late turning in the materials.

If you have any questions, see your counselor. Best wishes.

Walker Retired Educators Association

WREA Scholarship Information and Criteria

1. The criteria for the selection of the scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Graduating seniors of Gordon Lee, LaFayette, and Ridgeland High Schools.
- Acceptance at a college or university as a full-time student in teacher education preparation.
- Satisfactory academic achievement at the high school level. Evidence of acceptable leadership ability, good citizenship, acceptable attendance and punctuality.
- Recommendations (See PART II, "Scholarship Application").

2. The application procedure--

Each high school will have students apply by completing the application and by writing an essay on "Why I Want to Be a Teacher/Educator." Once the application packet has been picked up, it will then be sent to the WREA Scholarship Committee. This year (2016), the application packets will be picked up from your schools on Thursday, March 31, so the students must return them to their counselors by March 31.

3. Amount of scholarship--\$1000 for the 2016 - 2017 school year.

4. Each scholarship winner's name will be given to the guidance counselors at the respective schools. The winners and the counselors are invited to attend WREA's April 18 meeting at 11 a.m. where the winners and the counselors will be lunch guests and the students will be recognized as the winners. In addition, the winners will read their essays. The monetary awards will be presented to the students at the Honor's Day/Night of each respective school.

**WALKER COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION**

NAME _____ AGE _____ BIRTH DATE _____
ADDRESS _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

Guidelines for WREA Scholarship

Please Note: The entries will be photocopied, and only photocopies will be submitted to the judges for evaluation. To provide good quality copies to the judges, we require that

Part I be neatly typed or printed in blue or black ink. Must be readable.

Part II—see instructions with Part II.

Part III should be typed, writing on only one side of the paper, and using 12-point font.

Do NOT submit a personal photograph. This scholarship will be judged and awarded with regard to gender, race, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

PART I. (20 points)

A. List your high school activities including offices held and awards received in athletics, music, journalism, drama, science, and/or other participation and areas of interest.

B. Describe briefly your efforts to serve your community (home, school, place of worship, etc.) How have these activities been effective or made a difference in your lives and/or the life of others?

C. What are your future plans and education and career goals? How do you plan to achieve your aspirations? What has influenced your decision to choose education as a career?

D. List extra-curricular activities in which you are a participant, for example, scouting, 4-H, church, community, school or summer jobs, hobbies, etc.

Part II. (10 points)

1. Include a transcript of your grades and test scores (ACT, SAT, etc.) provided by your high school. This transcript must be complete through the end of the first term of the 12th grade. Also include a list of the classes in which you are enrolled for this second term.
2. Include two letters of recommendation. One of these letters should be from a close adult associate (other than family), such as a minister, choir director, employer, scout leader, 4-H leader, etc. The second letter should be from a school faculty member such as a teacher, coach, music instructor, guidance counselor, etc. These letters of recommendation should be returned to you in sealed envelopes and submitted with your entry.

The letters should include the following:

- a. Identification of the writer along with his/her home or business address and phone number.
- b. Relationship with the student and length of time he/she has known the student.
- c. The student's qualities, which makes him/her an appropriate candidate for this scholarship.

Part III: Essay (70 points)

The title of your essay is "Why I Want to Be an Educator." The essay is to be between 800 - 1000 words—no longer than 1000 words, typed or word processed, double spaced, and in 12-point font.

You must follow correct essay writing format. You need at least three paragraphs, a thesis statement in paragraph one, and correct sentence structure (no run-on sentences or fragments). You should also proofread and edit your writing to make sure you have followed proper grammar and punctuation rules and have no spelling errors. If you are not sure what the "correct essay writing format" is, ask an English teacher.

The application must be returned to your counselor by **March 30, 2017**. A copy of the judges evaluation form is attached. Use as an overall guide for writing and editing.

In Summary--

The complete application should include and be in the following order: 1. The application itself; 2. Copy of your high school transcript with ACT and/or SAT test scores; 3. List of your current classes; 4. Two letters of recommendation; and 5. Your essay.

Judges Evaluation Form

Student's Name _____

Judges: Please do not write on any part of the student's entry. Use this sheet, including the back, and the score sheet.

Part I: Personal (20 points possible)

- a. High School: Does the student have a variety of interests?**
1. Participated in **arts.** Yes ___ No ___
 2. Participated in **journalism.** Yes ___ No ___
 3. Participated in **music.** Yes ___ No ___
 4. Participated in **science.** Yes ___ No ___
 5. Participated in **sports.** Yes ___ No ___
- b. Home and Community: Is the student a contributing member in-----**
1. His / Her **church.** Yes ___ No ___
 2. His / Her **community.** Yes ___ No ___
 3. His / Her **family.** Yes ___ No ___
 4. **Has he/she made a positive difference in some way?**
Yes ___ No ___
- c. Future Plans: Is he/she preparing for the future----**
1. Through **courses taken in school.**
Yes ___ No ___
 2. Through **volunteering.** Yes ___ No ___
 3. Working a **part time job.** Yes ___ No ___
- d. Extra-Curricular Activities: Has he/she participated in other activities in his/her life, other than school-organized activities such as:**
1. **Scouting.** Yes ___ No ___
 2. **Explorers.** Yes ___ No ___
 3. **4-H.** Yes ___ No ___
 4. **Part-time job.** Yes ___ No ___
 5. **Hobbies.** Yes ___ No ___
 6. **Other** _____
- Total for Part I _____**

Part II: Transcript and Letters: (10 points possible)

Has the students included----

1. **His/Her Transcript.** Yes ___ No ___
 2. **Two Letters of Recommendation.**
Yes ___ No ___
- Total for Part II _____**

Judges Evaluation Form

Part III Essay (70 points possible)

Has the student exhibited the following criteria in the essay?

- | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| a. Between 800-1000 words, but not over 1000. | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| b. Essay well organized with clearly stated ideas. | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| c. Original in thought and expression. | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| d. Few errors in standard writing conventions. | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| e. Followed correct grammar and punctuation. | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| f. Adequate supporting details. | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| g. Thesis statement with controlling ideas. | Yes _____ | No _____ |

Total Points for Part III _____

Grand Total for all three parts: _____

Additional Comments: