



2017 Scholarship Application

Scholarship Eligibility and Selection Criteria:

1. The applicant must fulfill high school graduation requirements as part of the graduating class of 2017.
2. The applicant has been accepted to an accredited college or university and plans to attend that institution full time during the 2017 Fall Semester.
3. The applicant must be either: (i) a resident of Newton or Needham, even if matriculating elsewhere, or (ii) attending high school in Newton or Needham, even if residing elsewhere.
4. The application must be submitted by your principal or guidance counselor to the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce and sent to the Chamber by 5:00 p.m. on **March 31, 2017**.
5. The committee will determine in its discretion what criteria to apply in making the award, and what weight to give each criterion. Criteria that have been considered in the past (and that the committee anticipates will be accorded significance again this year) include the following:
 - A history of demonstrated effort, which may have resulted in a high degree of achievement in academics and/or extracurricular activities (whether school-related, outside of school, or work-related), or which may have resulted in the applicant overcoming significant challenges.
 - A compelling secondary school 'story' that shows the attributes and character necessary and desirable to understand and respond to the competitive challenges and opportunities in today's world.
 - Recommendations from teachers, guidance counselors, and others who have worked with the graduate and can comment on the applicant's character and worthiness to receive a scholarship. Note that, although the standard school guidance counsel recommendation is sufficient, it is our experience that having additional recommendations from teachers or other adults who know the applicant more personally tend to enhance the application.
 - Other compelling circumstances, personal and/or financial, which show that the Chamber scholarship would make a difference to the applicant.
6. Children and grandchildren of employees and/or directors of the Chamber are not eligible to receive a Chamber scholarship.
7. The scholarship recipient must present proof of successful completion of their first college semester. Scholarship payment will be sent to the school to be applied towards tuition or related costs. The Newton-Needham Chamber reserves the right to contact the college or university to determine the best method of payment to maximize the benefit to the recipient.

Instructions to Applicant:

Please complete pages 3 and 4 of this package and return to the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce along with the required **Essay** of 300-350 words and a **Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher, employer, guidance counselor, or other person other than a relative. You may submit up to three such Letters of Recommendation. We strongly recommend that at least one of your Letters of Recommendation be from a person who knows you well (e.g., a teacher, coach, employer, or close family friend). It is our experience that such letters typically give the Scholarship Committee a much better sense of who you are and what your circumstances are than a general letter from a school official who might not know you as well.

Do not fold these materials but rather submit them to your Guidance Counselor in a large manila envelope with postage stamps attached. Address the envelope to:

Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
281 Needham St.
Newton, MA 02464

Please request that your Guidance Counselor include a copy of your official transcript and a statement to the effect that you are expected to graduate as part of the graduating class of 2017.

Request that the Counselor assure that the envelope be sealed and returned to the Chamber of Commerce prior to 5:00 PM on **March 31, 2017**.

All information contained in the submittal will be kept confidential.

Instructions to Principal/Guidance Counselor

We have instructed the scholarship applicant to provide you with a stamped, addressed envelope containing a completed scholarship application, an essay and a letter or letters of recommendation in support of the application for a scholarship. We would appreciate your providing the applicant's **official transcript**, including midyear senior grades and rank in class if available, and a statement that the student is expected to graduate as part of the class of 2017. The envelope should already be addressed to the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce as follows:

Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Scholarship Committee
281 Needham Street
Newton, MA 02464

The applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2017

Your cooperation is deeply appreciated. In the event that one of your students should receive a scholarship, you will be notified as soon as possible. For further inquiries or questions, please contact Kevin Ruddy at 781-370-5450 or kruddy@ptc.com.

These instructions and application can be found online at www.nnchamber.com



2017 Scholarship Application

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____, MA

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL: _____

IF KNOWN AT THIS TIME, WHAT COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

IF NOT KNOWN, LIST YOUR TOP THREE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CHOICES:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

LIST SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, ATHLETIC, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

LIST YOUR PERSONAL INTERESTS AND TALENTS:

SPECIFY BELOW HOW A CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIP WOULD ASSIST YOU IN ATTENDING COLLEGE.

(THE ANSWER TO THE ABOVE QUESTION MAY BE PROVIDED ON A SEPARATE, ATTACHED SHEET)

SPECIFY BELOW ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK THE COMMITTEE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION. THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL.

(THE ANSWER TO THE ABOVE QUESTION MAY BE PROVIDED ON A SEPARATE, ATTACHED SHEET)

The following is to be completed by the applicant only.

Please attach an essay of between 300 and 350 words describing one of the following:

- 1. An important experience relating to community service that you performed during your high school years;**
- 2. How you demonstrated leadership ability either in or out of school;**
- 3. A difficult personal or academic challenge you faced and how you overcame it (as above)**

It is not mandatory, but you may also attach a statement of any other facts or circumstances that you want the Committee to know or that you think would be relevant to the Committee's consideration of your application.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN ABOVE IS CORRECT AND THAT THE ESSAY IS MY OWN ORIGINAL MATERIAL.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____