

# 2008 HERB KOHL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS

## Purpose

The purpose of the Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarship program is to recognize student leadership, citizenship, school and community involvement, and academic achievement. Our goal is to encourage Wisconsin youth to pursue post-secondary education in a public or nonpublic university, college or vocational/technical college. The Foundation awards \$1,000 Excellence Scholarships to 100 Wisconsin high school graduates annually. Homeschooled Wisconsin students receive a proportionate number of the total scholarships awarded each year.

A Kohl Excellence Scholarship can only be used to directly reimburse tuition and fees for postsecondary education. The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation will make the scholarship grants directly to the postsecondary institutions that scholarship recipients attend.

## Who Is Eligible

Applicants must be homeschooled students who intend to enroll in a postsecondary institution, which may be a public or private university, college, or vocational/technical college. Applicants must be residents of the State of Wisconsin, U.S.A., in good standing, and demonstrate probable success in postsecondary education.

## Selection Criteria

Students will be evaluated on their leadership, citizenship, school and community involvement, and academic achievement. In addition, students will be evaluated on their ability to clearly articulate goals in each of four areas: future educational goals, personal life goals, community/society service goals, and career goals. Each student must submit three letters of recommendation, from each of the following categories:

1. Teacher—one letter
2. Community member (for example, an employer, physician, member of religious community, etc.)—one letter
3. Family friend (family members are excluded)—one letter

Letters of recommendation will be evaluated on how well they describe the student's improvements, contributions, and successes. See How Your Application Will Be Scored for details.

## How the Program Works

Homeschooled students must submit their completed applications to the Wisconsin Parents Association (WPA) by November 14, 2008. Selection of finalists will be made by a committee named by the WPA Board of Directors. On or before December 15, 2008, WPA will advance the finalists to the state level. The state selection committee will convene on February 3-4, 2009, to score applications. Recipients will be notified in late February or early March 2009.

The state selection committee will consist of representatives of the cooperative educational service agencies, Wisconsin Parents Association, Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools, Wisconsin Newspaper Association, Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, education-related associations, and the community.

Students chosen to receive Excellence Scholarships will be honored at a recognition luncheon in the spring. Recipients' scholarship grants will be paid directly to their chosen postsecondary institutions in August, 2008.

## Contact:

Wisconsin Parents Association  
P.O. Box 2502  
Madison, WI 53701-2502  
608-283-3131

## KOHL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP SCORING GUIDE

The following scoring guide is provided to application screening committee members to assist them in rating applications. It will also help applicants, or potential applicants, understand how their completed application will be evaluated.

### I. Activities, Talents and Service

#### A. Leadership and Participation in Music and Speech Activities

##### (a) Quantitative Analysis 0123

**3 Points** = The student has participated in a variety of activities, over the course of several years, and has demonstrated excellence through awards, recognition and leadership positions.

**2 Points** = The student demonstrates two out of three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

**1 Point** = The student demonstrates one of the three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

##### (b) Qualitative Analysis 01 2 3 4 5 6 7

The applicant's description of the value of these experiences is judged on a 7-point scale. This response would be considered exceptional (7) if it identifies a number of distinct benefits, acknowledges the value to both the individual and others, incorporates a present and longer-term view, is well-written, is creative and thorough. An average response (4) would have some but not all of these attributes. A poor response (1) would demonstrate little understanding of the value of these activities beyond being fun or interesting for the applicant.

#### B. Leadership and Participation in Athletic Activities

##### (a) Quantitative Analysis 0123

**3 Points** = The student has participated in a variety of activities, over the course of several years, and has demonstrated excellence through awards, recognition and leadership positions.

**2 Points** = The student demonstrates two out of three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

**1 Point**= The student demonstrates one of the three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

**(b) Qualitative Analysis** 01 2 3 4 5 6 7

The applicant's description of the value of these experiences is judged on a 7-point scale. This response would be considered exceptional (7) if it identifies a number of distinct benefits, acknowledges the value to both the individual and others, incorporates a present and longer-term view, is well-written, is creative and thorough. An average response (4) would have some but not all of these attributes. A poor response (1) would demonstrate little understanding of the value of these activities beyond being fun or interesting for the applicant.

**C. Leadership and Participation in Other School and Community Activities**

**(a) Quantitative Analysis** 0123

**3 Points** = The student has participated in a variety of activities, over the course of several years, and has demonstrated excellence through awards, recognition and leadership positions.

**2 Points** = The student demonstrates two out of three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

**1 Point**= The student demonstrates one of the three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

**(b) Qualitative Analysis** 01 2 3 4 5 6 7

The applicant's description of the value of these experiences is judged on a 7-point scale. This response would be considered exceptional (7) if it identifies a number of distinct benefits, acknowledges the value to both the individual and others, incorporates a present and longer-term view, is well-written, is creative and thorough. An average response (4) would have some but not all of these attributes. A poor response (1) would demonstrate little understanding of the value of these activities beyond being fun or interesting for the applicant.

**D. Work Experience, Hobbies, Outside Interests and Special Talents**

**a) Quantitative Analysis** 0123

**3 Points** = The student has participated in a variety of activities, over the course of several years, and has demonstrated excellence through awards, recognition and leadership positions.

**2 Points** = The student demonstrates two out of three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

**1 Point**= The student demonstrates one of the three criteria: variety of activities; more than one year of participation; awards, recognition, leadership.

**(b) Qualitative Analysis** 01 2 3 4 5 6 7

The applicant's description of the value of these experiences is judged on a 7-point scale. This response would be considered exceptional (7) if it identifies a number of distinct benefits, acknowledges the value to both the individual and others, incorporates a present and longer-term view, is well-written, is creative and thorough. An average response (4) would have some but not all of these attributes. A poor response (1) would demonstrate little understanding of the value of these activities beyond being fun or interesting for the applicant.

## II. Essay Question

Instructions to students: Please write a 300-500 word essay describing your goals in the following areas: 1) Future education; (2) Personal life; (3) Community/society service; (4) Career. A total of 35 points is devoted to this section. An outstanding response would have the following characteristics in all four goal areas:

- reveal a capacity for introspection, reflection and vision;
- acknowledge a need for continuous learning and growth;
- are realistic and relevant in terms of the student's stated interests, talents and skills;
- represent a clear and consistent set of values;
- are well-written in terms of organization, grammar, spelling and word usage;
- reflect unusual insight and/or foresight;
- are clearly stated goals which reflect an achievement orientation as opposed to a wish list or dream state;
- they are specific, achievable and are the result of the person's actions, not his/her luck or good fortune.

## III. Letters of Recommendation

- Three letters of recommendation must be included from the following categories:
  - teacher--one letter
  - community members--one letter
  - family friend--one letter
- Each letter of recommendation is evaluated separately and is eligible to receive up to five points. The rater should consider the following when determining point allocations:
  - the extent to which the writer provides specific examples of the student's attributes;
  - the depth and breadth of the qualities being described;
  - evidence of unusual or remarkably distinctive qualities or attributes;
  - clarity of relationship;
  - the extent to which the writer knows the applicant well enough to make the claims being made;
  - whether the letter was written specifically to address the criteria of the Kohl Scholarship or is a generic letter or recommendation.

Teacher	012345
Community Member	012345
Family Friend	012345

## IV. Overall Quality of Application (Maximum = 8 Points)

On a scale of 1-8 rate the overall quality of this applicant's package, with 8 being of highest quality. Also consider the extent to which the total "picture" of the student matches the purpose and defining criteria of the Kohl Excellence scholarship program: leadership, citizenship, service, entrepreneurialism, improvement, and probable success in post secondary education. This section is an opportunity to also evaluate the degree to which the nominee has followed the application criteria.