

December, 2023

Dear Seniors,

The William S. & Margaret I. Marvin Scholarship has been released for four-year applicants! A new application process for two-year applicants was released on Monday, December 11th. Students that are applying for the 4-year scholarship have a minimum requirement of 100 community service hours (you'll need more if you want to be a competitive applicant). Students applying for a 2-year award have no minimum requirements for community service, but you do need to submit a community service record.

If you would like me to review your personal statement or have questions about the scholarship application, please share it with me @ bridget_lindner@warroadschools.org I'd love to provide some feedback to you!

What follows are *Useful Links, Dates to Know, Application Tips, and Personal Statement Tips*

Useful Links

- [William S. & Margaret I. Marvin Scholarship America portal](#)
- [WHS Scholarship webpage](#)
- [Online Community Service form](#) - no signature required.
- [What is Community Service?](#)

Dates to Know

- **Thursday, February 15th** - The last day to turn in community service hours.
- **Wednesday, February 21st** - Community service reports will be emailed to students to their school email address. Paper copies will be available for pick up in the high school office. If you want this report earlier, please ask Melanie.
- **Wednesday, February 28th, 3:00pm Central Time - Scholarship due.**
- **Monday, March 4th, 2024 3:00pm Central Time** - Letters of recommendation due.

Application Tips

- **Use your personal email address.**
- **Getting started on the application:** Make sure you select "High School Senior" and the Year "2024" and "First Year Undergraduate".
- Having only one parent who has not attended or completed college **DOES qualifies you as a First Generation College Student.**
- **Extracurriculars are for six years**, 7th - 12 grade. Use school years, for example if you were in band for four years from 9th - 12th grade, you would write 2020 - 2024.
- **Extracurriculars** - ONLY include the school-based ones!
- **Community Service Hours** - only include the ones you recorded hours for. If you have done a lot of community service outside of school AND you haven't received community service hours for this civic engagement, you can attach a document that explains any leadership or involvement you've had in your community-based volunteer activities.

- **Recommendation** - must be from a teacher, academic advisor or counselor or principal or superintendent. Please note this is a form and is required. Your recommender does NOT need to submit a letter, but they are welcome to include one if they feel they want to say more about you that isn't addressed in the recommendation form.
- Double and triple check **the spelling of your recommender's email address**, then follow up with your recommender that they received an email from Scholarship America.

Personal Statement Tips

- **What Should I Write?** Write something about yourself that is truthful, that you are proud of and/or excited about that hasn't already been addressed in the application. This can be your values, your strengths, personal qualities, your dreams, etc.
- **Hook 'em!** - Get your readers hooked with a strong opening line or paragraph that shares a story about you. (Make sure the story is connected to the point you want to make about you.)
- **Be Specific!** - Be descriptive so the reader can see and hear the story you're relaying. **Show Your Cards** - Explain your vision and plan for your next steps, i.e. education goals and then how these goals apply to your post-academic career goals.
- **Be Memorable** - However, be descriptive and specific enough that you are memorable in other ways, i.e. "the girl with the tools in her pockets", "the hockey player who paints", "the three-sport athlete who volunteered for KidKare", "the pole vaulter who doesn't want to be an engineer."
- **Don't Be "Grateful"** - Avoid the rabbit hole of expressing gratitude to your teachers, parents, and community for such a wonderful opportunity. Focus on telling the reader about YOU and your dreams.
- **Finish Strong** - End your personal statement on a strong note by being positive. This will give the reader a sense that you are a "sure bet" - someone worthy of the scholarship!
- **Be Real** - It's better to write something truthful than something you think sounds impressive.
- **Get Feedback** - Your best effort is not going to be your first draft. Start early and get feedback from teachers, family, friends to really hone those revisions and make them your best.