



NFWL Annual Conference

NFWL-NRA Bill of Rights Essay Contest

18th Annual NFWL-NRA Bill of Rights Essay Scholarship Contest

APPLICATION PACKET

Deadline: Friday, June 12th, 2015 by 5pm Eastern Time

Congratulations on your decision to apply for 18th Annual National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) - National Rifle Association (NRA) Bill of Rights Essay Contest! Each year, NFWL and the NRA join forces to provide six female high school juniors and seniors a **\$3,000 college scholarship** and an **all-expense-paid trip to NFWL's 2015 Annual Conference**. The Conference will take place September 11-15 at the Renaissance Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK. **Please carefully read the following instructions. Good luck!**

Application Requirements:

Application Packet:

*The following materials should be **EMAILED** as separate documents, to meghan@womenlegislators.org by the deadline.*

1. Completed Essay Contest Application Form
2. Final Essay
3. One (1) Letter of Recommendation from a teacher, advisor, employer, etc.
4. One (1) Letter of Recommendation from an elected woman official in your state.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be:

- College-bound female high school juniors or seniors (Class of 2015 or Class of 2016)
- Available to attend the NFWL Annual conference, September 11-15 in Oklahoma City, OK, where they will be presented with the award.

Deadline: Essays are due no later than 5pm (Eastern Time) on Friday, June 12, 2015. Essays received after this date will not be considered for the contest.

Questions may be directed to the NFWL office at (703) 518-7931 or meghan@womenlegislators.org.



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2015 NFWL-NRA Bill of Rights National Essay Scholarship Topics

Essay: Select one of the five freedoms protected under the First Amendment: Speech, Religion, Press, Assembly, or Petition.

Read 5 recent news articles about the freedom you've chosen and it's relation to gender equality.

Use the articles you've read to guide your ideas.

Write an essay about how this freedom has helped or hindered women throughout history on the road to equality, and what still needs to change in order to bring women to equal standing.

Important: The Scholarship Committee will weigh four specific elements in submissions: In addition to the basics of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and writing style, the judges will be looking for essays with (1) historical research, insight and perspective, (2) demonstrated understanding of the American Constitution (3) inspirational quality and (4) meaningful personal connection.

Format: 400-600 words, single spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman. Essays must be submitted as a separate PDF document.



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2015 NFWL-NRA Bill of Rights Essay Contest Application Form

This form, along with your Essay and 2 Letters of Recommendation, must be completed and sent to the NFWL office via email: meghan@womenlegislators.org, by the Friday, June 12, 2015 deadline.

APPLICANT NAME

Email Address

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Birthdate

High School Graduation Date

Name of High School

College(s) that you are planning to attend/considering attending

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

Email Address

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

RECOMMENDING LEGISLATOR**TITLE**

Email Address

Office Phone

Staff Name

Staff Email

X**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE****TODAY'S DATE**

X**PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE****TODAY'S DATE**



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General Questions

I'm having trouble downloading the application packet. What do I do?

If you have problems downloading the complete application packet, please email Meghan Cusick at meghan@womenlegislators.org.

How do I submit my application?

All applications should be submitted via email, with each element (the form, the essay, the letters) submitted as separate PDF documents.

How many students enter the contest each year?

Hundreds of students submit essays each year. A total of six winners are selected.

Letters of Recommendation

What kind of elected woman should I ask for a letter of recommendation?

State, county and local elected women officials, such as state senators or representatives, city council members, county commissioners, mayors, etc. who have been elected to their position are acceptable. No federal legislators are eligible to write a letter.

I'm having trouble finding an elected woman official to get a letter of recommendation.

If you are having problems finding an elected woman official, send us an email at meghan@womenlegislators.org.

Does the recommending woman official have to currently be in office?

Yes. All letters must come from an elected woman who is currently in office. No exceptions.

Who should I ask to write my other letter of recommendation?

Ask someone who knows you well. When deciding on whom to ask for a letter of recommendation, think of people in your life who are most familiar with you and your achievements. Consider asking a teacher, coach, school counselor, employer, or adult family friend.

About the Essay

Will I be disqualified if I go over/under the word count?

It would be best to stay within the 400-600 word count. However, essays will be evaluated mainly based on content. If you are slightly over or under the word count, don't panic. Focus on the quality and content of your essay.



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NFWL Annual Conference and Travel

If I am chosen to receive a scholarship, is my trip to the Conference paid for?

Yes, but you must agree to attend the entire conference which will be held September 11-15 in Oklahoma City, OK. You will share a room with another winner. All students will be chaperoned by an adult member of NFWL's staff during their stay at the Conference.

Are my parents able to attend the Annual Conference if I win?

Students are encouraged to come on their own, however if parents or families choose to join them they are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

Eligibility

I am not a US Citizen. Am I still eligible?

As long as you are attending college in the US and you can attend the Annual Conference in Oklahoma City, OK September 11 – 15, you are eligible.

If you have a question that is not listed here, please email NFWL at meghan@womenlegislators.org.