



EXCELLENCE IN
AGRICULTURE



OVERVIEW

Established in 2000, the Washington State Potato Foundation recognizes the importance of promoting pride in the agriculture industry through education programs and scholarships throughout the Columbia Basin. Furthermore, the Scholarship committee is committed to bolster the quality of the workforce throughout the Columbia Basin. Over the years, the WSPF has awarded over 130 students a total of over \$160,000 in funds to support farm families in their academic pursuit.

The **Excellence In Agriculture Scholarship Program** is open to college and trade school students in the Washington and Oregon potato growing regions. This scholarship program awards gifts of \$1000-\$5000 to up to 20 students annually. Top candidates may be eligible for recurring scholarships. Other candidates (who receive single year awards) are eligible to apply for multiple years, but must complete a new application packet with new letters of reference each year.

To qualify, a student should demonstrate many of the following traits:

- ◆ Have above average academic record
- ◆ Have an exemplary record of ag involvement/community involvement or extra-curricular success
- ◆ Demonstrate heritage of a 'farm family' or currently working in an ag related business
- ◆ Secure strong references from the agriculture and/or Columbia Basin leadership community
- ◆ Desire to enroll as a full time student in an agriculture related major
- ◆ Desire to share talents and return to work in an ag related industry within the Columbia Basin
- ◆ Special consideration will be given to students who personally (or whose family) works in the potato industry.

Applicants will be evaluated on their high school or other academic records, extracurricular activities, personal application essays and reference letters. An independent committee, administered by the Washington State Potato Foundation will select the winners.

Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

Applications are due February 15th. Scholarship winners will be notified by mail prior to April 30th.

All inquiries about policies, procedures and payments should be directed to:

Kellee Balcom, Executive Director
Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship Program
Washington State Potato Foundation

PO Box 5051
Pasco, WA 99302
Phone: 509.528.4144
Fax: 509.271.0006
Email: kbalcom@potatoes.com

INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete this form in full. Incomplete applications are not eligible. This application and your reference letters are the primary means for the selection committee to determine your eligibility for an award. Please do your very best so you can receive the consideration you deserve.

BE SURE TO PROOF-READ AND SPELL CHECK YOUR APPLICATION!

1. Name _____ E-mail Address _____

First Middle Last

2. Permanent Mailing Address

Street/PO Box # City State Zip

3. Phone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

4. Parent Name(s): _____ Parent (s) Employer: _____

5. Applicant will apply to enter, or is currently enrolled in what college or trade school?

6. For the academic school year beginning _____

7. Major Course of Study _____

8. Please list high schools, trade schools, junior colleges and colleges you have attended.

Schools	Dates
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Applicant's overall High School GPA: _____ Jr. College _____; 4 year college: _____

Please include most recent transcripts with this application.

8. What will be your academic level for the upcoming school year?

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
Graduate

9. Please list school activities, awards and honors received in the last 4 years.

10. Please list community service activities and organizations which you are or have recently been involved:

11. Describe your top two leadership experiences and how that motivates you for your future.

12. List your work experience and briefly describe job responsibilities for each.

13. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

a. Applicant must submit two letters of recommendation, giving information about your character, leadership ability, and community service. At least one of the two letters must be from someone currently working in the agriculture industry. The letters must be received by the application deadline of February 15th.

b. Please provide the names of the individuals who will be supplying the confidential letters of recommendation. (If the agriculture person is a relative, it is still appropriate for them to write the letter)

	Name	Company	Title
1)	_____		

2) _____

CHECKLIST:

- Are all areas of the application filled out completely?
- Are my reference letters sent in?
- Have I included my transcripts?
- Did I have someone else proof-read my application?
- Did I sign the application?

The applicant certifies that the information provided on this form is true. Applicant agrees that if selected for the scholarship, he/she will attend the institution listed and will pursue the major course of study listed in the application for the duration of the academic year. **Any changes shall be submitted immediately to WSPF.**

Applicant understands and agrees that failure to comply with the above may render him/her ineligible for the scholarship. He/she may be required to return any remaining unused portions of the scholarship to the WSPF.

It is understood that submission of this completed application gives permission to the WSPF to utilize your name and or photo for promotional and marketing purposes.

Dated this: _____ day of _____, 20__.

Applicant signature: _____

The WSPF Scholarship Committee reserves the right to make decisions and award scholarships based on the clarity, completeness, presentation and

Scoring for this application will be determined in the following fashion:

- 0-10 points: Grade Point Average and academic achievements
- 0-30 points: Relevance of major and career aspiration to the agriculture industry
- 0-10 points: Application completion: tidiness, appearance, grammar and spelling
- 0-20 points: Quality of leadership and community service experiences
- 0-20 points: quality of letters (specific, non-generic and personal)

timeliness of this application. The WSPF Scholarship committee reserves the right to make final awards with regard to goals, intent and purpose of the scholarships in its best judgment concerning the final candidates.