**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF VIRGINIA2016 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The National Federation of the Blind of Virginia (NFBV) will award up to three James F. Nelson, Jr. scholarships in the amount of $1,500 at the organization’s annual state convention to be held at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451. The convention begins on Friday, November 11 and concludes at noon on Sunday, November 13, 2016. Scholarship recipients must attend the convention in Virginia Beach to receive their scholarship awards. The NFBV will cover reasonable costs associated with travel to the convention, half the cost of a room at the hotel, most meals, and the cost of registration and a banquet ticket. Winners will be reimbursed for these expenses at convention, so please notify the committee if you do not have access to a credit card or other means of covering pre-convention costs. The National Federation of the Blind of Virginia is an organization dedicated to creating equality, opportunity, and security for all blind people. Winners of an NFBV James F. Nelson, Jr. scholarship need not be members of the National Federation of the Blind. The Committee will consider applicants for all eligible scholarships with one application. Individuals who have applied in previous years are encouraged to apply again.The Scholarship Committee will review all applications and select the scholarship recipients. The Committee will notify finalists by telephone on or before October 15, 2016. All decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

To be eligible for these awards, each applicant must:Be legally blind;Be a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia or be attending school in the commonwealth;Be pursuing—or planning to pursue—a full-time, postsecondary course of study in the 2016 - 2017 academic year; andParticipate in the entire NFBV state convention and in all scheduled scholarship program activities to be held November 11-November 13, 2016, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. **Deadline:** Applications along with all supporting documents must be received on or before September 15, 2016.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF VIRGINIA2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

**Application Process:** Complete the 2016 Scholarship Application Form electronically and email it with the supporting documents to the scholarship committee chair.

**NFBV Scholarship Committee Chair Contact Information: Dr. Brian R. Miller Email: Brianrmiller88@gmail.comPhone: 703-785-9929**

**Deadline:** All applications and supporting documentation must be received on or before September 15, 2016.

**PART A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFO. All applicants must complete this section.**Name:

Home address:

Cell phone:

Home phone:

Email address:

Date of birth:

How did you hear about our scholarship program?

**PART B: HIGH SCHOOL INFO. Only answer these questions if you have completed fewer than 30 credit hours of college-level education.**

Name and address of high school attended:

Cumulative Grade Point Average (specify weighted/unweighted and point scale):

College Admission Test Score (specify ACT or SAT; does not apply if you have completed more than 30 credit hours of college-level education):

**PART C: COLLEGE INFO. All applicants must complete this section.**

Name and address of school you will attend in the upcoming academic year:

Class (e.g. freshman, sophomore, graduate, etc.):

Is your course of study primarily online? (Y/N)

Number of hours completed (not including Fall 2016 course hours):

Major/minor:

Degree objective:

Current cumulative grade point average (not applicable if fall, 2016 is your first semester):

List all postsecondary institutions attended as well as highest class attained and cumulative GPA:

Vocational goal – describe what you hope to do upon graduation from college: List organizations & clubs of which you are a member, including officer positions if applicable:

List awards & honors received:

**PART D: Essay. All applicants must complete this section.**NFBV scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership potential. As the scholarships are restricted to individuals who are blind, the committee will be very interested in the approaches you use to live as an independent blind person. Please limit your responses to 250 words per question.1) Describe your most notable quality or characteristic.

2) What specific techniques and/or attitudes do you think are essential to live independently as a blind person?

3) What do you think is the most important issue or concern that blind students face today?

4) Provide examples of ways in which you’ve demonstrated leadership in your community or school.

5) What do you hope to gain from your experience as a scholarship winner and your time at the state convention?

**PART E: CERTIFICATION STATEMENT.**By typing my full name and the date below, I confirm that all of the information provided above and in related attachments is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.Signature:

Date:

***Please remember to attach to your email the required documents***

***with your completed application form.***

**2016 NFBV SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSION CHECKLISTAND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

All required documentation submitted to the committee must be converted to an accessible electronic format, such as a Microsoft Word file or an accessible PDF. Email all electronic documents along with your completed application to the scholarship committee chair, Dr. Brian R. Miller, at brianrmiller88@gmail.com.

Should you have difficulty submitting any portions of your application packet electronically, please contact the chair to make alternative arrangements.

Only complete applications will be considered. The Scholarship Committee takes no responsibility for notifying you if required information is missing from your application. Review your application for completeness by using the following checklist.

**Completed 2016 Scholarship Application Form**

All of the information requested on the form is required to process your scholarship application. Information must be submitted for each field. Write “N/A” or “Not Applicable” for fields that do not apply to you.

**Recommendation Letter from an NFBV Chapter President**

Please contact your local chapter of the NFB of Virginia and request the President to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Information on our chapters located throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia is available online at [www.nfbv.org](http://www.nfbv.org). Be sure to allow sufficient time to speak with a chapter President, typically by telephone, and for that individual to write your letter. If you consider yourself to be in the at-large chapter, a recommendation letter will be accepted from either the at-large chapter president or a current NFBV board member. The letter should be sent directly to the committee chair, Dr. Miller.

**College Transcript(s)**

Please scan and attach an official copy of your transcript from the institution you are currently attending and from all other post-secondary institutions that you have attended. If official transcripts are not available at time of application, please notify the committee chair to discuss alternative arrangements.

**High School Transcripts**

If you have completed fewer than 30 credit hours of college-level education, please scan and attach transcript(s) from all high schools you have attended to your application email.**Proof of Legal Blindness**

Provide a letter from a qualified professional (optometrist, ophthalmologist, vocational rehabilitation counselor, special education professional, or disability support services office) that certifies that you meet the definition of legal blindness. Attach this letter to your email application packet. Letters may also be sent electronically directly to the committee chair, so long as they are in an accessible form. Letters from opticians are *not* sufficient.