



Mendocino Coast **Writers'** Conference

High School Young Writers Scholarship APPLICATION

The Writers Conference will offer two full-tuition scholarships to selected students currently in grades 9-12 at any high school or alternative high-school program in Mendocino County. Home-schooled and independent study students are also eligible. Winning scholars will be invited to read their work in a public venue and will be considered for publication in the *Noyo River Review*, the conference's literary journal. They will have the chance to meet other students and to work closely with leading authors, editors and agents in a variety of creative writing workshops, seminars, and panels.

1. To apply, prepare a writing sample of up to five pages or up to three poems, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt type, black ink, with minimum one-inch margins. You may add an extra page as a synopsis of your nonfiction book or novel. Put the title of your sample and the page number on every page. Do NOT include your name. Entries are judged "blind" according to Council of Literary Magazines and Presses guidelines.

What is the title of your sample? _____

What is its genre? (Poetry, short story, novel excerpt, etc.) _____

2. Submit your application by email to scholarships@mcwc.org. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2017. Scholarship applications will be juried and award notifications sent by May 15. At that time you will be able to confirm and complete your registration. Scholarships are awarded solely at the discretion of the judges. Not all scholarships may be awarded every year.

- In the subject line of your email, please write "Young Writers Scholarship Application."
- Attach a PDF or jpg image of this completed form, all pages.
- Attach your writing sample as a PDF.

There is no cost to apply for the High School Writers' Scholarships. Please contact scholarships@mcwc.org for a prompt answer to any questions.



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Name: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

High School: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Are you currently (circle one) : Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Please provide the name of a teacher who might be contacted for a recommendation:

Name of Teacher: _____ Department or Title: _____

Teacher's Phone or Email: _____

Please describe any accessibility needs you may have: _____

Indicate your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for morning writing workshops:

Poetry _____ Short Fiction _____ Novel _____ Memoir _____ MG/YA _____ Emerging Writers _____

By signing this form I testify that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the writing sample submitted is wholly and entirely my own work.

Signature of Applicant **Date**

By signing below, I testify that I approve and accept responsibility for the application of this student.

Signature of Parent or Guardian if applicant is under 18. **Date**



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High School Young Writers Scholarship FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Will I be the only young person at the conference?

A. No! There are usually 6 – 10 high school and college aged writers who participate in the conference.

Q. Are transportation and housing included?

A. The conference tries to help with carpooling. Some housing options might be available if you don't have friends/family in the immediate area. In the past, some students have also stayed at nearby motels within walking distance of campus. Meals during the conference are included for all conference attendees, except for Friday night, when writers choose from favorite cafes, restaurants, and shops in historic downtown Fort Bragg or Mendocino.

Q. I'm not sure if my writing is good enough. I'm not an English major.

A. All writers start somewhere. The purpose of the conference is to nurture new talent and offer new experiences for all attendees. If you do not apply, you are essentially rejecting yourself. So, polish your favorite writing and apply.

Q. What if my grades aren't that great? Do you look at my transcript?

A. The MCWC is not interested in your transcript or grades. The conference wants to inspire and instruct new writers. Your actual writing and dedication to the power of the written word are what matters.

Q. Will I be penalized if English is not my native language?

A. Not at all. If you write in another language, please supply an English translation. The Conference encourages voices from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Q. The formatting instructions are confusing. I need help.

A. Please e-mail your particular question to scholarships@mcwc.org. Don't wait until the last minute, though. In other words, if you wait until April 30, it is probably too late to receive an answer in time.

Q. Will it matter if my spelling and grammar are messed up?

A. That depends. Have you made an effort to have someone like a teacher, friend, or parent proofread your work for obvious mistakes? Does your manuscript follow the formatting instructions? Everyone makes some errors. The writer's job is to correct everything to the best of your ability. In the real world, editors will help with the rest. Do your best!

Q. Do I have to attend all the workshops?

A. You must attend all three sessions of your morning workshop. However, you're free to decide which afternoon seminars



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you want to attend; maybe try something new like nonfiction if you mostly write poetry. Or hide in a quiet niche to fine-tune your work-in-progress.

Q. Am I guaranteed to get my first choice of workshop leader?

A. No. We make every effort to grant all participants their first choice, but that is not always possible. That is why we ask for your second and third choices also. If you do not get into the workshop of your first choice, consider it a chance to experiment and explore. Each of the MCWC faculty is selected on the basis of top teaching ability—not just on reputation as a best-selling or prize-winning author.

Q. Is there homework each day?

A. You will be expected to read the work of other members of your workshop before you come to the conference, and to be prepared to give constructive comments in class. Your instructor may also give short reading assignments during the course of the conference to add to class discussions.

Q. I'm not sure I want to be a writer. I just love books. Can I still apply?

A. Yes! Please do. High school and college are times to experiment. The MCWC brings together professionals from many aspects of the publishing world. You might discover a career path that you've never heard of before: editor, illustrator, book-packager, book reviewer, blogger, literary agent, copy editor, book designer, graphic novelist, sports writer, anthologist, journalist.

Q. I can't get my application in by May 1. Will you take it late?

A. No. Get used to it: in writing and in life, deadlines are a reality.

Q. Can I apply with a friend?

A. Of course! Each application will be considered individually. Even if your friend changes his/her mind, or isn't awarded a scholarship this year, you'll meet students from other high schools and make a new network of writer friends at the conference.

Q. When will I know for sure? I have an application in for science camp and my boss at work wants to set up the summer schedule.

A. All high school writers will be notified by May 15; at that time, you'll receive a complete schedule of conference activities and other details.

Q. How do I know what the choices are for workshops?

A. Check out the website at www.mcwc.org and go to the page for Morning Workshops. You can click on links there to read more about the instructors of workshops that interest you.