



## **North Dakota Mensa**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

It's that time again. The Mensa scholarship contest is underway and we need essay readers and graders. It's fun but necessary work and, thanks to the internet, all work can now be done from home. And, you can volunteer now, and you don't have to actually do anything until January!

First I am not sure if I thanked my wonderful volunteers from last year – Sarah BaeHurst, Antonia Curtis, Greg Kontz, Jocelyn Sloan, and Sharon Swan Tiezen, They responded every time and on time. That made my job easy.

I have only two years' worth of data – in 2016, we received 35 applications, in 2017 we received 62. So with two years' information, I don't know if that's a trend or a normal fluctuation. If it's a trend, I need at least four more judges!

Here's the deal:

The initial essays are divided into batches. You have to read one set of essays and rank them, and then the highest-ranking essays from all batches are combined, read again, and re-ranked. The finalists will be sent to the Mensa Foundation for selection of a winner. Grammar counts, as does essay organization and clarity of writing.

The North Dakota Mensa group will be awarding a \$500 scholarship in 2018 plus National awards another \$600 scholarship. Both Mensa scholarships are open to all permanent North Dakota residents who are enrolled in a U.S. college or university in the academic year following the award. Applicants write 550-word essays that describe their educational and/or career goals.

Winners are selected based on these essays and Mensa Foundation judging criteria. The Foundation's college scholarship program bases its awards totally on essays written by the applicants. Consideration is not given to grades, academic program, or financial need. Mensa membership is not required, nor is it relevant.

The scholarship application process opens Sept. 15 and closes Jan. 15.

The U.S. scholarship program covers all of the country and awards more than \$130,000 a year. The Foundation's U.S. scholarship program relies on approximately 450 volunteers around the country with support from the Foundation's office staff.

Applicants must be enrolled in a degree-granting program in 2018 at an accredited college or university within the US.

Winners may apply the award towards undergraduate, graduate, and non-traditional programs.

More information is available at <http://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>.

Please email me and I will compile a list of volunteers. The actual judging doesn't start until January.

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