

The information below was collected from www.udall.gov, and Glenn Magid, Academic Director of Stanford University

Dear Udall Scholarship Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Udall Scholarship. Please read this application letter carefully, including the advice on requesting letters of recommendations, since it outlines each step of the campus nomination process which you will have to complete to participate in this competition.

Award: \$5000

Eligibility:

The Udall Foundation seeks future leaders across a wide spectrum of environmental fields, including policy, engineering, science, education, urban planning and renewal, business, health, justice and economics. The Foundation also seeks future Native American and Alaska Native Leaders in public community health care, management, economic development and education. To be eligible, you must:

Be a matriculated sophomore or junior-level student at a two-year institution of higher education, pursuing an associate's degree or bachelor's degree during the 2009-2010 academic year. "Sophomore" is defined as a student who has completed 24 or more credit hours and intends at least two more years of full-time undergraduate study beginning in fall 2010.

Be committed to a career related to the environment, OR committed to a career in tribal public policy OR Native American health care. Native American students studying tribal public policy or native health do not need to demonstrate commitment to the environment. Likewise, students pursuing environmentally related careers do not need to be Native American, nor do they need to demonstrate commitment to tribal public policy or Native Health.

- Have a college grade-point average of at least a "B" or the equivalent.
- Be pursuing full-time study during the 2009-2010 academic year.
- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. permanent resident.

Students must be nominated by Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in order to participate in the national competition.

Application Process:

1. With the help of your academic advisors, and faculty mentors, please fill out the application which is available to print or fill in online at the Udall web pages: <http://www.udall.gov>. Review the website carefully, paying special attention to the Guidance to Applicants section.

2. Request three letters of recommendation. The letters should be addressed “Dear Udall Committee.” Please refer to the attached guidelines on asking for letters of recommendation. Tell your recommenders to send all letters directly to the SIPI financial aid office. Your letters must be received by February 2, 2010.
3. Submit the following materials by February 2, 2010, 4:00pm:
 1. completed application
 2. 800 word essay
 3. official transcripts from all colleges attended

All applications will be reviewed and if more than six applications are received, a committee will select six students to nominate to the Udall Foundation. Nominees will be notified by February 12, 2010. All SIPI nominees will be asked to resubmit a final version of their application, on an official form and their final 800 word essay. The SIPI financial aid office will send final applications to the Udall Foundation February 26, 2010.

Resources to help you in the application process:

Your application should be your best written effort: neat, legible, and well thought-out. You should work closely with your faculty mentors in your area of study while writing your application essays. You should take great care in selecting of the Udall speech, legislative act, or policy statement that you will address in your essay. You may wish to consult the following on-line archives:

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/exhibits/udall/speeches.html>

Soliciting Letters of Recommendation

Scholarship selection committees depend heavily on recommendation letters to gain insight into applicants’ personal strengths, weaknesses and accomplishments. This kind of information cannot be readily gleaned from transcripts and test scores, so it is in your best interest to help your recommenders write the most accurate and detailed letters possible.

You should begin to cultivate close working relationships with faculty early in your undergraduate career. Once you’ve become acquainted with faculty members through coursework, research or other ways, consider stopping by their offices once a trimester to discuss your interests and to keep in touch. When the time comes, you need not feel shy about requesting a recommendation. All faculty members had the same service done for them, and they regard this as a familiar process. Refer to the following guidelines for managing your letter requests:

Choose the people who know you best. The more detailed and personalized a letter is, the more likely it is to make a strong impression on a selection committee, so you should ask your instructors with the most extensive, personal knowledge of you and your work.

Ask early. It is common courtesy to allow recommenders at least three weeks to prepare and submit their letters. We highly recommend involving them in the early stages of

your application process, while you are deciding what to write about and how to present yourself in the application materials. Their insights will prove invaluable, and they will be well-informed of your interests when they write their recommendations. You should thus begin your request with a substantial conversation about your interests and goals, and then ask them if they can write a strong letter of recommendation. Most likely they will say yes. In some cases, however, the faculty member may say no or that he or she can only write a recommendation citing certain qualifiers or weaknesses. In this case, you should accept his/her judgment graciously and consider asking for more feedback about your goals and plan for study.

Detailed letters are the best letters. Once faculty have agreed to write your letters, provide them with copies of your application materials. The following items will help them to write accurate and purposeful letters:

- ✓ Photocopies of this advising letter plus key pages from the Udall website, describing the nature and purpose of the scholarship
- ✓ A copy (or a draft) of your application essays, or a summary of your career and educational goals
- ✓ A list of your activities (sports, organizations, leadership and volunteer positions, etc.)
- ✓ A description of pertinent work or research experiences
- ✓ A copy of your transcript
- ✓ If a number of trimesters have passed since you worked with a recommender, you should also provide her/him with a copy of your paper or class project.

Write out all submission instructions and deadlines. There should be no question as to when and where to submit the finished letters. Provide properly addressed, typed and stamped envelopes.

Keep in touch with your recommenders. After submitting your application, send recommenders a thank you note expressing your appreciation for their guidance and support. Update them on your progress throughout the status of the competition and inform them whether you are selected for the awards or not. Should you need a recommendation in the future, this kind of follow-up communication will continue to foster a close, positive relationship with your faculty sponsors.

Good luck on your applications!

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