# National Federation of the Blind of Michigan

# 2023 Scholarship Program

The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan is pleased to announce its 2023 scholarship program benefiting blind college students. This year, we will offer three scholarships, one for $1500, two for $1000 each. These awards are earned by outstanding blind students who currently live in Michigan, or are attending college in the state of Michigan during the Spring 2024 term.

Scholarship winners will be required to attend the entire 2023 convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan. The 2023 convention will take place November 10-12, 2023 in Dearborn/Detroit, MI located at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel, 5801 Southfield FWY, Dearborn, MI. Convention expenses, including registration and banquet ticket, will be provided to each scholarship recipient as a reimbursement. For more information on state convention, please visit http://www.nfbmi.org/convention

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan is an organization dedicated to creating opportunities that encourage security, equality and opportunity in the lives of blind people throughout the state of Michigan. However, applicants do not need to be a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan to apply for these scholarships.

The NFB of Michigan offers these scholarships as a way to recognize the achievements of blind students in their academic affairs, personal pursuits, and service to their community. These scholarships are based on merit and will not affect any rehabilitation services you may be receiving. The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan can provide written documentation explaining this if needed.

To be eligible for these scholarships, all applicants must:

•Be certified as legally blind

•Be a resident of the state of Michigan or a student at a Michigan college or university

• Be pursuing a full-time postsecondary course of study during the Spring 2024 academic term. We will also consider part-time students with additional responsibilities such as employment or parenting. Part-time students must be enrolled in at least half of a normal course load.

• Participate in the entire NFB of Michigan 2023 state convention and all scheduled scholarship activities

* Attend the student programming of the Michigan Association of Blind Students during the 2023 Michigan state convention; and

• Submit all application materials by October 4, 2023.

All application materials must be submitted electronically. Please make sure all applications are complete. The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan does not accept responsibility for incomplete applications. Each scholarship application will be reviewed by the scholarship committee, and winners will be notified by October 15, 2023. All decisions made by the scholarship committee are final.

For more information or to download the 2023 application, please visit

<http://www.nfbmi.org/convention>

Good luck!

Sabrina Rice.

2023 Scholarship Committee Chair

Email: scholarships@nfbmi.org

# National Federation of the Blind of Michigan

# 2023 Application Checklist

Please use the following checklist to make sure your scholarship application is complete. The scholarship committee is not responsible for notifying you if required information is missing from your application or for lost or misdirected Email messages. Please submit all items via Email to [scholarships@nfbmi.org](mailto:scholarships@nfbmi.org). We will reply to your message to confirm receipt of your materials. When submitting your application, make sure to include the following items:

1. Completed 2023 Application Form

Incomplete application forms will not be considered. Please write a response for each item in the application form. If an item does not apply to you, write “N/A”.

2. NFB of Michigan Interview

This interview will be conducted via voice by the Scholarship Committee of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan. To schedule an interview, contact the scholarship committee at scholarships@nfbmi.org

3. One letter of recommendation

This letter of recommendation should come from a professor, teacher, employer, or a member of the community who is qualified to speak on your behalf. A good letter of recommendation should highlight your achievements in and out of the classroom as well as potential leadership skills.

4. Current Transcripts

Please send a current transcript from the institution you are currently attending as well as any other post-secondary institutions you have attended. If you have completed less than 20 credit hours of post-secondary education, please email your high school transcript.

5. Verification of Blindness

All scholarship applicants must be legally blind. Applicants must verify they are legally blind by emailing a letter from a qualified professional such as an optometrist, ophthalmologist, vocational rehabilitation counselor, special education professional, disability support services office, or NFB of Michigan board member or chapter president.

All scholarship materials must be received by the scholarship committee by October 4, 2023. No materials will be considered after the deadline. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the scholarship chairperson, Sabrina Rice, via email at [scholarships@nfbmi.org](mailto:scholarships@nfbmi.org)

**Description of Awards**

1. The Gere Wilcox Scholarship- $1500: The highest scholarship offered by the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan. This award is bestowed to the student applicant that achieves impressive academic standing in their educational institution, a dedication to the equality and advocacy of the blind, a commitment to productivity in their community, and encourages the progression of themselves/their profession.
2. The Joy and Allen Harris Award: $1000: This academic merit award is bestowed to the student applicant that achieves commendable academic standing and a commitment to growth of their community.
3. The Larry Posont Award- $$1000: This award, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Blind Students, is bestowed upon the student applicant that is dedicated to the progression and effectiveness of blind students within their community, state, and/or nation as evidenced in past actions and future endeavors.

\*\*Only one application form is required for consideration for all three scholarships. Please complete the required materials on the checklist once.\*\*

# National Federation of the Blind of Michigan

# 2023 Scholarship Application Form

To Apply: complete the 2023 Application Form electronically and email it along with all accompanying documents to [scholarships@nfbmi.org](mailto:scholarships@nfbmi.org). All documents should be submitted in an accessible format (.Doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf).

For Questions, Contact the scholarship chairperson, Sabrina Simmons, via email at scholarships@nfbmi.org

**Important**: All documentation must be received on or before October 4, 2023.

## PART A: DEMOGRAPHIC Information

Name:

Home address:

Phone Number:

Email address:

How did you hear about this scholarship program?

## PART B: HIGH SCHOOL Information

Please fill out this section if you have completed less than 20 credit hours of post-secondary education. If this section does not apply to you, please answer “N/A” or “Not Applicable” to these questions.

Name and address of high school attended:

Cumulative Grade Point Average:

## PART C: COLLEGE Information

Name and address of school you will be attending in the Spring 2024 academic term:

Class Standing (e.g. freshman, sophomore):

Cumulative Grade Point Average:

Field of Study (major/minor):

Other post-secondary institutions attended along with cumulative Grade Point Averages:

Expected graduation date:

Vocational goal – Describe what you hope to do upon graduation from college:

## PART D: Essay (800 words or less)

The National Federation of the Blind of Michigan awards scholarships based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership potential. As you prepare your essay, keep in mind that this is your biggest opportunity to demonstrate your best qualities to the scholarship committee. The essay is all about you and your story. What sets you apart from other applicants? Tell us about your leadership qualities, community service, and your attitudes on blindness. Be sure to proofread your essay, and better yet, have someone else proofread it as well.

## PART E: CERTIFICATION STATEMENT.

By typing my full name and date below, I confirm that all of the information provided in this scholarship application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Type your full name below:

Date: