

Reviewer Instructions

HOW POINTS ARE CALCULATED

Each application is scored on a 100-point scale with up to 11 points of extra credit.

25% of available points are based on the **multiple-choice** parts of the application and are automatically pre-scored. The 11 extra-credit points are awarded for applicants that are part of a group underrepresented in computing, have limited access to computing and technology, or live in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood. You do have access to the applicant's answers to the multiple-choice sections of the application for reference.

The remaining 75% of the application points come from **qualitative** short answer items and are **scored by you**.

Each application is reviewed by a minimum of four different reviewers and the scores are averaged to achieve a final score. The final slate of Award recipients is selected at the discretion of NCWIT and the local Affiliate committees.

NOTES ON SCORING

The scoring rubric is embedded in the online scoring system. You should consult the rubric as you score. *A few additional items to note:*

- Scoring and saving a “draft” of at least three applications before submitting any gives you an overall sense of the quality of the applications and enables you to score relative to the other applicants.
- We are looking for both achievements **AND** aspirations. An applicant who has interned in computing and engaged in many extracurricular activities certainly deserves recognition; however, some applicants lack access to those opportunities. Look for evidence of interest, action, and enthusiasm about computing.
- Expect the quality of the applications to vary *greatly*. Many of the applicants may consider use of applications such as Microsoft Word or PowerPoint to be computing. ***This is common and may be less indicative of the quality of the applicant than evidence of a lack of availability of quality computing education in the schools.***
- Access is important to note. The quantitative portion of the rubric does not award points for mere use of applications, but the qualitative portion permits a person to consider relevant circumstances.
- Remember these are high school students who range in age from 13 to 18. We encourage them to use appropriate grammar, correct spelling and sentence structure and to express a complete thought in clear and concise terms. Not all will do so, or know how to do this well. You are scoring more on content than style.
- In the essays, some special HTML and unicode characters are displaying in our system, e.g. & and &O39;. Reviewers are instructed to not penalize students for the special characters, as this is a limitation of the aspirations.org system's ability (inability) to display those characters correctly. These special HTML codes should not be considered applicant typos.
- Applicants had the opportunity to inform us if English is their first/native language and their answer is displayed to you. This may be helpful to note when reading essays. To the extent possible non-native English speakers should not be penalized for incorrect sentence structure if obvious attempts are made at expressing themselves.



QUALITATIVE QUESTIONS (Scoring guidelines are embedded on-screen)

You are reading and scoring five free response questions. The free response questions are short essay questions with a suggested length of 100-250 words.

Origin of Interest Question: Please describe what sparked your interest in computing and technology and why (for example: course(s) you have taken; family member influence; after-school program; etc.).

Scoring Guidelines:

- 4 – Clearly describes, with appropriate detail, what sparked her interest and clearly explained why this was a spark.
- 3 – Describes the spark clearly and with appropriate detail – OR – clearly explains why this was a spark, but one or the other is slightly lacking in detail.
- 2 – Describes a spark and provides some elaboration on why it was a spark.
- 1 – Describes a spark in a general way and does not elaborate on why this was a spark.
- 0 – Does not describe what sparked interest – OR – did not answer.

Experience with Technology Question: Please describe your typical experiences with technology and how you use it to further your knowledge of computing. This is your time to shine – tell us what you have been doing and be sure to give us specific details on your skills.

Scoring Guidelines:

- 4 – Clearly describes, with appropriate detail, several technology experiences and clearly explains how these experiences furthered computing knowledge.
- 3 – Clearly describes her technology experiences -or- clearly explains how these experiences furthered her computing knowledge, but one or the other is slightly lacking in detail.
- 2 – Describes some technology experiences and briefly explains how these furthered computing knowledge.
- 1 – Describes a few technology experiences and/or how they furthered computing knowledge with limited details.
- 0 – Does not describe any relevant experiences and/or how they furthered computing knowledge - or - did not answer.

Leadership Question: Please describe ways in which you have SHOWN LEADERSHIP in your school and/or your community in relation to promoting and sharing your knowledge of computing and technology.

Scoring Guideline:

- 4 – Formal Leadership (a defined role) of a computing- and/or technology-related club or activity like a robotics team or computing outreach to others is fully and clearly described.
- 3 – Informal Leadership (an undefined role) of a computing- and/or technology-related club or activity like a robotics team or computing outreach to others is fully and clearly described.
- 2 – Describes helping peers, near-peers, adults, or informal teaching of others in computing or technology - or - describes informal or formal leadership role(s) but does not fully or clearly describe the experience.
- 1 – Leadership in a non-computing-related school or community organization is fully and clearly described - or - informal or formal leadership in computing or technology is vaguely described.
- 0 – No leadership experiences are discussed - or - did not answer - in particular did not address computing/tech.

Career Goals Question: Please describe HOW you would like computing and technology TO BE A PART OF your career goals.

Scoring Guideline:

- 4 – Clearly describes, with appropriate detail, how computing and technology CREATION are CENTRAL to her future pursuits.
- 3 – Describes how computing and technology CREATION are CENTRAL to her future pursuits but lacks essential details.
- 2 – Describes how computing and technology CREATION are PERIPHERAL to her future pursuits - or - lacks essential details.
- 1 – Describes USING computers but technology is PERIPHERAL to her future pursuits – or – description is incomplete and lacking clarity.
- 0 – Does not describe any computing or technology in career goals - or - did not answer.

Problem Solving Question: Please describe a problem that you would like TO SOLVE using technology and explain HOW you would solve it (this could be a social problem, a technical problem, a local problem, a world problem, etc.).

Scoring Guideline:

- 4 – Clearly describes with appropriate detail a problem she wants to solve and clearly explains how she could solve it with Technology.
- 3 – Clearly describes with detail what she wants to solve -or- clearly explains how she would solve the problem with Technology, but one or the other is slightly lacking in detail.
- 2 – Description of the problem and solution is lacking in details - or - does not explain how technology would be utilized.
- 1 – Vaguely describes a problem and/or does not clearly explain how she would solve the problem using technology.
- 0 – Does not describe a problem she wants to solve - or - did not answer.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

This year students were invited to (optionally) share additional information about the work they have done in tech. To view this response (if any) click on “View Application” at the top of the scoring window and click on tab 4 “Experience with Technology” in the Application display window. This will display the applicant’s response to this question:

If you have examples demonstrating your efforts and experience that you would like to share with us - such as a personal website, portfolio of Tech work, or video demonstration - please provide link(s) to the content. (URLs only; no uploads permitted)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Please take a moment and assess the overall application of each student, under “Provide Your Review Comments Based On The Entire Application.”

In this section, please add anything you think might be beneficial for NCWIT and the regional Affiliate committee in the selection process. Your comments are extremely valuable and really help with the selection of Award recipients. Anything you can share, even why you scored an application the way you did, is appreciated.

*These comments, and your scores, are only visible to the selection committee at the local and national level; they are **NOT** visible to applicants.*