Preparing Your Application

Here are some things you should know or have on hand when completing your application:

- To apply, you must first register for an account on aspirations.org. Your account allows you access to your profile, unsubmitted applications and approval and endorsement status. For the user profile you need to have your home address, phone number, and zip code. You also need to create a memorable password for your account.

- Award Applicants must have a US Social Security or Tax I.D. number that you can provide if needed. You don't need this for the application, but will need to provide this information if you are declared a National Award winner.

- You need to know if you have an immediate family member who is a staff or board member of National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT). This list of staff and board members is listed here: http://www.ncwit.org/about.team.html

- You need to have a working email address that you check on a regular basis.

- You need to know the name and email address of your parent/guardian. The email that you list for your parent/guardian must be different from the email that you listed for yourself, and should be one that is checked regularly. You should inform your parent/guardian that you are applying for this award. He/she will receive an email with instructions to view and approve your account registration.

- You need to know your school's name, complete address and telephone number.

- You need to have the email address (preferably personal) of an educator who can endorse your application. This could be a teacher, counselor, principal or other school official that knows your work and accomplishments. The person you list as your school official should be notified that you are using them as a reference, just as you would for a college or job application. It is also usually best to ask their permission to use them as a reference. The school official you list will receive an email with instructions to view and endorse your application.

- Have someone proofread your entries (before you paste them into our application portal) and do your own spell-checking because the application portal does not offer this feature.

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Application Questions

Application information is pulled from your profile. These are the questions on the online application:
** Items marked with an asterisk are required.*

GPA and Additional Details

Is English your first language? * Y/N

Select which scale your school uses for grades:

- 4 Point Scale
- 5 Point Scale
- 6 Point Scale

What is your GPA? *
Use your most recent GPA, e.g. 8th grade. If your school does not calculate GPAs, please estimate based on a 4 point scale.

Does your high school offer any computing or technology classes? * Y/N/IDK

Does your high school or community offer any computing or technology clubs or teams? * Y/N/IDK

Computing Activities/Concepts Checklist:

Access to Computing/Technology
Please describe your access to the following computing/technology devices and services:
Choices are: *Not usually* *Sometimes* *Always*

- Do you have access to a cell phone?
- Do you have access to a tablet at home?
- Do you have access to a computer at home?
- Do you have access to a tablet or computer at school?
- Do you have access to the internet at home?

Use of technology Short Answer *
Please answer in 150-250 words *(sample lengths can be found at end of How-To guide)*: When you do have access to technology, please describe how you typically use the above technology at home and away from home to further your knowledge of computing.

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Please rate your level of experience with each of these:
Choices are:

- *No Experience--I've never used it.*
- *Some Experience--I've used it a few times, and I only know how to do a couple of things.*
- *A lot of experience--I use it regularly, and/or I've spent time learning about a lot of the options.*

General Computing Applications

- Word Processing (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, Open Office, etc.) *
- Spreadsheets (Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets, Open Office, iWork, etc.) *
- Presentations (Powerpoint, Keynote, Prezi, Open Office, etc.) *
- Desktop Publishing (Microsoft Publisher, InDesign, Pagemaker, etc.) *

Interactive Multimedia

- Web Design/Development (Dreamweaver, Adobe Creative Suite, etc.) *
- Multimedia Design (Photoshop, iMovie, Illustrator, etc.) *
- Computer-Aided Design/3D Printing (AutoCAD, Inventor 3D, Cura, Tinkercad, MakerBot, etc.) *
- Game Design (GameMaker, Blender, etc.) *
- Game Development (Visual Student, Basic, C++, C#, etc.) *
- Mobile Application Development (Objective C, AppInventor, Swift, etc.) *
- Web Application Development (Java, HTML5, PHP, etc.) *

Programming Environments:

- Mathematical and Statistical Applications (Wolfram Mathematica, MATLAB, Scilab, etc.) *
- Robotics (Labview, ROBOTC, Lego Mindstorms, etc.) *
- Graphics (Scratch, Alice, Flash, OpenGL, Java 3d, SNAP, etc.) *
- Coding Languages (Python, Javascript, C++, C#, PHP, HTML, Visual Basic, etc.) *
- Advanced Data Structures (Stacks, Queues, Trees, etc.) *
- Database Design/Programming (MySQL, MongoDB, Access, SQL Server, etc.) *
- Open Source Contributions (contributing original code segments to open source libraries like GitHub) *

Hardware/Networking/System Operations

- Desktop Support (install/maintain computers for yourself and others, software installation, etc.) *
- Server Support (System manager for server systems) *
- Network Support (System manager for multiple machines on LAN or WiFi) *
- Network/System Architecture *
- Network Security / CyberSecurity *
- Certifications (CompTIA, Microsoft, SANS, etc.) *

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What have you done with computing and technology Short Answer? *
Please answer in 150-250 words *(sample lengths can be found at end of this guide)*: Thinking about the computing and technology experience questions above, please describe what have you done with Interactive Multimedia, Hardware/Networking/Systems Operations, and Programming and include any experiences from the Curricular section to supplement your answer. This is your time to shine - tell us what you have been doing and be sure to give us specific details on your skills. If you have experience in other areas not listed, tell us about those.

Interest:

Interest in Computing and Technology Short Answer *
Please answer in 150-250 words *(sample lengths can be found at end of this guide)*: 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.).

Leadership:

Leadership in school and/or community Short Answer *
Please answer in 150-250 words *(sample lengths can be found at end of this guide)*: 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.

Future Influence:

Career goals Short Answer *
Please answer in 150-250 words *(sample lengths can be found at end of this guide)*: please describe HOW you would like computing and technology to be a part of your career goals.

Problem to solve using technology Short Answer *
Please answer in 150-250 words *(sample lengths can be found at end of this guide)*: 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.).

Curricular, Co-curricular and Extracurricular activities:

Please rate your level of involvement in these Curricular, Co-curricular and Extracurricular activities:
Choices are: *None* *Some participation* *A lot of participation*

- Computing classes at your High School *
- Computing/Technology-Related Club or Team (at school or outside of school) *
- Computing/Technology-Related Community Involvement/Volunteerism *

- College-Level Computing/Information Technology Courses *
- Independent Study of Computing/Technology to Advance Your Knowledge *
- Computing/Technology-Related Summer or After-School Program (participant) *
- Computing/Technology-Related Job *
- Computing/Technology-Related Internship *

Are you now or have you been a member of a national extracurricular youth program or club, such as: *

None | 4H | ATT Arduino Competition | BBBS | Black Girls Code | Bootstrap World | Botball/KISS Institute for Practical Robotics | Boys & Girls Club | Church Group | Code.org | Computing club | CyberPatriot | DECA | Dot Diva | Explorer Scouts/Sea Scouts | Faith-based youth program (e.g. Awanas) | FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) | FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) | FIRST Robotics | Geek Squad Summer Academy | Girl Scouts | Girls Inc | Girls Who Code | Globaloria/World Wide Workshop | Google Maker Camp | Google Science Fair | IBM EX.I.T.E | IBM Master the Mainframe | IGNITEÂ (Inspring Girls Now in Technology Evolution) | Iridescent/Technovation Challenge | ISEF/ISTS (Intel Intl Science & Engineering Fair/Intel Science Talent Search) | Key Club | MESA | Microsoft Digigirlz | MOUSE Squad | National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) | National Honor Society | NCWIT AspireIT | Roboplay/UC Davis Center for Computing and STEM Education | SciGirls | Student Council | Tech Corps | TechBridge | The BizWorld Foundation | US Cyber Challenge | Other:

Career Path:

What areas are you most likely to study after high school? *
Select up to two areas that most closely match your plans. These categories and majors are used by the College Board. If you would like more information about any of the areas listed, you may visit their Major & Career Profiles page.

Planning on going to college, major undecided
Not planning to go to college
Gap year
Military
Aerospace Engineering
Agriculture and Related Sciences
Architecture and Planning
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies
Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
Arts, Visual and Performing
Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Biomedical Engineering
Business

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Chemical Engineering
Communication and Journalism
Communications Technologies
Computer and Information Sciences
Computer and Information Security
Computer Forensics
Computer Graphics
Computer Hardware Engineering
Computer Networking and Telecommunications
Computer Programming
Computer Science
Computer Software Engineering
Computer Systems Analysis
Construction Trades
Database Management
Education
Electrical Engineering
Engineering (other)
Engineering Technologies
English Language and Literature
Family and Consumer Sciences
Game Design and Development
Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences
History
Informatics
Information Science
Information Technology
Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics
Law and Legal Studies
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities
Library Science
Math and Statistics
Mechanic and Repair Technologies
Mechanical Engineering
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies
Natural Resources and Conservation
Parks, Recreation, and Fitness
Personal and Culinary Services
Philosophy and Religion
Physical Sciences
Precision Production Trades
Psychology
Public Administration and Social Services
Science Technologies
Security and Protective Services

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Social Sciences
System Administration
Theological Studies and Religious Vocations
Transportation and Materials Moving
Web Development
Other:
If other, please specify:

Educator Contact Information:

Educator E-mail Address
Enter the e-mail address of an educator that can write an endorsement for you as an applicant of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. **It is recommended that you use the educator's personal email address if possible.** School email addresses often have strong spam filters that block emails from aspirations.org

Terms and Privacy:

Please read over the Privacy Policy and Terms of Use.

Consent and Release

National Center for Women & Information Technology
NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing
Thank you for your participation in the National Center for Women & Information Technology ("NCWIT") Award for Aspirations in Computing program (the "Award" and the "Award Program", respectively). As a way of sharing the computing experiences of the Award winners with the NCWIT membership, videotaped interviews may be conducted with recipients of the Award. The video may be shown at NCWIT meetings, online, and at other venues related to the work of NCWIT. In addition to the video, recipients of the Award may be asked to participate in additional interviews, and other photographs and audio and video recordings may be made of recipients for and in connection with the Award Program.

In consideration for my being allowed to participate in the Award Program, I, Ammi Ludwick on behalf of myself and my representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, hereby agree as follows:

The National Center for Women & Information Technology a Colorado nonprofit corporation with offices located at 1111 Engineering Drive, UCB 417, Boulder, CO 80309 ("NCWIT") desires to use the name, likeness, personal characteristics, and private information and publicize the name, likeness and personal characteristics of the individual named below ("Participant") for advertising, promotion, research and other commercial and business purposes. Additionally, NCWIT desires to use and publicize the works developed and created by Participant within the scope of Participant's application to and participation in any and all of the Aspirations in Computing Program, the Award for Aspirations in Computing, the Aspirations in Computing Community, and/or the NCWIT Collegiate Award (collectively and individually,

the "Program") for advertising, promotion, research, and other commercial purposes. NCWIT takes Participant's privacy very seriously. All Authorized Uses, as defined herein, will conform with NCWIT's Privacy Policy found at www.ncwit.org/privacy.

In exchange for the intangible value Participant will gain by participating in the Program and other good and valuable consideration, Participant hereby gives NCWIT permission for the uses ("Authorized Uses") set forth in this Consent and Release ("Agreement").

Consent to Authorized Uses
Right of Publicity: This section allows NCWIT to use Participant's name, photograph, video, etc. in future promotional materials for the Program.

Participant hereby irrevocably permits, authorizes, and licenses NCWIT and its affiliates, to display, publicly perform, exhibit, transmit, broadcast, reproduce, record, photograph, digitize, modify, alter, edit, adapt, create derivative works, exploit, sell, rent, license, otherwise use and permit others to use Participant's name*, image, likeness, appearance, voice, and other personal characteristics and all materials created by or on behalf of NCWIT that incorporate any of the foregoing ("Materials") on a perpetual basis throughout the world and in any medium or format whatsoever now existing or hereafter created for advertising, public relations, publicity, packaging and promotion of NCWIT and its affiliates and their businesses, products and services, without further consent from or royalty, payment or other compensation to Participant.

Participant hereby irrevocably transfers and assigns to NCWIT Participant's entire right, title and interest, if any, in and to the Materials and all copyrights in the Materials arising in any jurisdiction throughout the world, including the right to register and sue to enforce such copyrights against infringers. Participant acknowledges and agrees that Participant has no right to review or approve Materials before they are used by NCWIT, and that NCWIT has no liability to Participant for any editing or alteration of the Materials or for any distortion or other effects resulting from NCWIT's editing, alteration or use of the Materials. NCWIT has no obligation to use the Materials or to exercise any rights given by this Agreement.

*for minor participants, NCWIT will only use the Participant's first name and last initial.

License to Works Created Within the Scope of the Program or in Application to the Program: This section allows NCWIT to use any works created by the Participant during the Program or in application to the Program in future promotional materials for the Program.

Participant and NCWIT acknowledge that Participant may create certain work product during Participant's participation in the Program or in Participant's application to the Program (collectively, the "Works"). Participant hereby grants NCWIT and its directors, agents, employees and affiliates, a perpetual, irrevocable non-exclusive license to use Participant's Works to promote NCWIT and its affiliates and their businesses, products and services, without further consent from or royalty, payment or other compensation to Participant.

Consent for Program Partner to Provide Participant Information to NCWIT: This section allows the program host and the Participant's Designated School Official to send information regarding the Participant to NCWIT.

Participant acknowledges that the Program may not be hosted by NCWIT and may be hosted by an independent entity (the “Program Partner”). Participant hereby irrevocably grants Program Partner the permission and right to share any information that Participant discloses to Program Partner in the scope of the Program with NCWIT. NCWIT shall only use such information for purposes consistent with the spirit and intent of the Program.

Additionally, in connection with certain aspects of the Program, Participant may designate a teacher or other school official (the “Designated School Official”) to endorse or recommend Participant for awards, accolades, or application to other items related to the Program. Participant hereby voluntarily consents to allow Participant’s Designated School Official to provide any necessary information, including personally identifiable information and academic records, to NCWIT. NCWIT shall only use such information for purposes consistent with the spirit and intent of the Program.

Consent for NCWIT to Contact Participant: This section allows NCWIT to contact the Participant regarding the Program.

Participant grants NCWIT the permission and right to contact Participant using contact information provided either directly to NCWIT or to NCWIT through the Program Partner. NCWIT shall only contact Participant for purposes consistent with the spirit and intent of the Program.

Release from Liability

Liability Release: This section states that Participant won’t sue NCWIT.

Participant HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE NCWIT, its directors, officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns (collectively, the "Releasees") FROM ALL LIABILITY TO Participant, Participant’s personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and guardians FOR ALL LOSSES OR DAMAGES AND ALL CLAIMS OR DEMANDS THEREFOR ON ACCOUNT OF INJURY TO PROPERTY OR PERSON, INCLUDING DEATH, ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE, OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

Representations and Warranties

Participant’s Representations and Warranties: This section states that Participant has been truthful in its application materials and owns the rights to or has acquired the necessary permission to submit any conveyed materials to NCWIT.

Participant represents and warrants that any materials Participant conveys to NCWIT (“Conveyed Materials”) during the Program or in its application thereto do not infringe the rights of any third party. Additionally, Participant represents and warrants that Participant has full right and title to any of the

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Conveyed Materials and/or has acquired all permissions necessary regarding the Conveyed Materials for the uses contemplated under this Agreement.

Participant further warrants and represents that Participant has met the criteria contained in the Award Information Sheet located at https://www.aspirations.org/participate/high-school, has been truthful and forthright in all Conveyed Materials, and, to the best of Participant's knowledge, there is no reason why Participant should be denied entry into the Program.

**IF PARTICIPANT IS A MINOR, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PARTICIPANT'S LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST SIGN AS WELL

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Reference Sample Essay of 250 words -- use for reference as to essay length

The AiC Award offers both a national and local competition to generate support and visibility for women's participation in computing nationwide. Last spring, over 2,300 women were recognized representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and overseas US Military Bases.

We want to honor even more students this year and that means we need you! More than two-thirds of applicants say they applied because they were encouraged to do so by an educator. You inspire these young women every day and are the people who employ new ways to engage them. It is through your teaching that they see the value of computer science education. Past award winners report becoming more “Proud, Determined, Confident, Encouraged” about futures in computing from winning the Award.

In addition to identifying a pool of talented young women, NCWIT also recognizes outstanding educators who play a pivotal role in helping to encourage young women to continue exploring their interest in computing and technology. Through the NCWIT AiC Educator Award, each recipient is given up to $1000 in cash and professional development funds and is honored at the regional award ceremony alongside the students. “This has opened up mind to finding new ways to help these ladies achieve goals they once thought were impossible” Educator Award recipient.

Applications for the 2016 Aspirations High School and Educator Award open September 1, 2016. For applications, or for information about NCWIT or the AiC program go to www.aspirations.org or contact aspirations@ncwit.org.

Reference Sample Essay of 150 words -- use for reference as to essay length:

The AiC Award offers both a national and local competition to generate support and visibility for women's participation in computing nationwide. Last spring, over 2,300 women were recognized representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and overseas US Military Bases.

We want to honor even more students this year and that means we need you! More than two-thirds of applicants say they applied because they were encouraged to do so by an educator. You inspire these young women every day and are the people who employ new ways to engage them. It is through your teaching that they see the value of computer science education.

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