

**Vashon Community
Scholarship Foundation** 

Investing in Futures Since 1986

**Student Guide
2022-2023**

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Introduction

Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation is a unique local effort to encourage graduating seniors to continue education and training after high school. Thanks to our volunteer board, thousands of generous donors, and engaged community members, VCSF has raised more than \$2.5 million to support the dreams of students over the last 36 years.

Every student who submits a notebook is awarded a scholarship. At our annual ceremony, each student is celebrated and honored. This packet is a guide for seniors graduating through Vashon Island School District (VISD) who wish to submit a scholarship notebook. If students or their families have questions about the scholarship process, please don't hesitate to contact the board at vashonscholarships@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving your scholarship notebooks!

Important 2022-2023 Scholarship Dates

Student Scholarship Presentation: Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 6:30 pm

- Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86164411100?pwd=bUJkZm8vM1plTDIgbzVnSE81T2lZdz09>
Meeting ID: 861 6441 1100, Passcode: 2023Money
- Student Guide available at <https://www.vashonscholarshipfoundation.org/student-guide>.

Scholarship Commitment: Wednesday, November 2, 2022

All students will submit the following in person at VHS entrance:

- Scholarship Commitment Form with multiple signatures. (See page 11 of this guide)
- Rough draft of Personal Resume page(s) in outline format (See page 5 of this guide).
- Please note that for 2022-2023, the \$25 application fee for each student is being paid by a generous donor!

Completed Scholarship Application Turn-In: Wednesday, January 11, 2023

All students will submit a completed scholarship packet in this order:

- Title Page with photo and name
- Personal Resume (1 to 2 pages)
- Personal Essay
- Two Signed Letters of Recommendation
- Four Collage Pages (1-sided)
- Student Bio
- VCSF Release Form

New for 2022-2023, the VCSF board is considering digital uploading of the scholarship packets. Stay tuned for additional information.

VCSF Awards Ceremony: Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Thank You Notes & Educational Plans: June 2023

- Prepare one Thank You note and envelope for each scholarship award received.
- Thank You notes must be in a stamped, addressed envelope, with the student's return address.
- Turn in your completed Thank You notes and Educational Plans to the VHS office (VCSF box).

Need more information or forms? www.vashonscholarshipfoundation.org

Contact us: vashonscholarships@gmail.com

Scholarship Monies Sent to Post-High School Programs by VCSF – July 2023

- Scholarship monies are sent to the educational program the student indicates on the Education Plans Form. Students should verify with their school that scholarship monies have been credited to their account.
- It is the student's responsibility to notify VCSF of any changes to their plans. Contact VCSF Treasurer: Ellen Call, Vashon.ellencall@gmail.com.
- If you change schools, unused funds must be returned to VCSF before they can be sent to another school.
- Deadline for Class of 2023 students to request use of their awarded monies is July 1, 2025.

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Scholarship Notebook Checklist

When you turn in your scholarship notebook on January 11, 2023, it should contain the following information in this order:

- TITLE PAGE - 1 page that contains your name and a current photo
- PERSONAL RESUME – 1 or 2 pages in outline format. Include the following:
 - Education: Schools you've attended.
 - High School Clubs and groups in and out of school. Include details of your involvement.
 - Sports in and out of school with length of time played during high school years.
 - Any honors for distinction in academics, sports, clubs or activities.
 - Community service with description and extent of your involvement.
 - What else do you do with your time and what makes you happy?
 - Tell us about a challenge you faced during your high school years.
 - Work experience with details of your involvement.
 - Brief description of a non-academic accomplishment.
 - Brief description of yourself to a stranger.
 - How do you intend to further your education after high school?
 - What are your hopes and dreams for your future?
- TRANSCRIPT PAGE - Foundation members will insert your transcript into your notebook that we receive directly from VISD.
- PERSONAL ESSAY – 1 to 2 pages in length.
- TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION - Can be up to 2 pages each.

Include recommendation letters from:

- One high school teacher or community college instructor.
- One community member who knows you well such as a coach or mentor. Do NOT use a second teacher unless they know you specifically as a coach or a mentor.
- Letters of recommendation may NOT be from an immediate family member such as parents, step-parents, siblings, aunt, uncle or grandparents.

Choose the 2 individuals as soon as possible. At the bottom of the Scholarship Commitment Form, indicate the teacher and community member you will ask for letters of recommendation.

- COLLAGE – 4 pages.

A creative visual display about you. You could include newspaper clippings, your art, certificates, awards, etc. Do not submit originals! Please note, your title page photo and collage pages might be incorporated into a multi-media component of the ceremony.

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Sample Personal Resume

Finn Hamsun

222 Westside Highway SW, Vashon, WA 98070

Cell phone: 206-946-0000, Family phone: 206-463-0000, Email: f58hamsun@uno.net

Birthdate: March 23, 2003, Seattle, WA

Education

- Crown Hill Elementary, Seattle (grades K-2)
- Chautauqua Elementary (grades 3-5)
- Harbor School (grade 6)
- McMurray Middle School (grades 7-8)
- Vashon High School (grades 9-11)
- Running Start at Seattle Central Community College (grade 12)
- Cumulative GPA to date: 3.65

Clubs and groups both in and out of high school (note details)

- Explorers Program for Vashon Fire and Rescue (2 years)
- Amnesty International (3 years; co-president grade 11)
- UCC Youth Group Choir, Seattle (2 years)
- Honor Society (grade 10 - present)

Sports in and out of high school (note length of time played)

- Vashon Crew, (2 years; Most Improved grade 10)
- VHS Cross Country (3 years; Most Inspirational grade 9)
- Biking (summer competitions)
- Hiking and camping (Walked across England with my family; frequent day hikes and overnights in the Cascades with friends)
- Snowboarding (grades 8-11)

Additional honors

- Rotary Exchange student to Poland (summer 2018)
- Freshman English award

Community service

- Pet Protectors Volunteer (Saturday mornings 1 year)
- UCC youth volunteer with Habitat for Humanity (spring break 2 years)
- Food bank garden work (3 weekends)

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What else do you do with your time?

- I play harmonica with a band called Skunk Patrol
- I repair bicycles
- I'm interested in politics (especially this year!)
- I like to read science fiction

Work experience

- Yard work for 2 families (summer, grade 9)
- Camp Burton kitchen crew (weekends, grade 12)

Tell us about a challenge you faced during your high school years:

- At the beginning of the pandemic, it was so isolating to be taking classes online, and not seeing friends for sports. So I started riding my bike with a friend every day. I got in great shape, and saw every inch of Vashon. At the end of the summer, my friend and I rode the Passport 2 Pain to celebrate.

A non-academic accomplishment and why it was important to me:

- I helped a friend who fell hiking and broke his arm to safety. That experience showed me that I can remain calm in crisis and be resourceful as needed. I would like to get EMT training.

Describe yourself to a stranger:

- I am funny, smart, energetic and enthusiastic. Math is not my strong point, but I care about people, ideas, and nature. I am the middle of 3 boys. We raise chickens and ducks, sell eggs, and recently worked together to build a new and improved coop.

How do you intend to further your education after high school?

- Attend UW or Evergreen State and maybe graduate school in international relations or law school. I would like to work in intercultural justice.
- I'm interested in learning more about boats and repairing engines, so I plan to attend Seattle Maritime Academy.
- I'm inspired by nature, challenged by being in the mountains and dedicated to reversing climate change. I'm applying to programs through National Outdoor Leadership School and Wilderness Awareness School to begin learning more.

What are your hopes and dreams for your life after high school?

- After I graduate, I'd like to ride my bike across the country and make a video about my experience to share with family and friends.
- I'm looking forward to going to a small arts school where I can focus on learning about the performance arts, and gain the skills I need to become a full time actor.

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Personal Essay

Your personal essay is your chance to use your voice, to help those viewing your notebook gain an understanding of who you are as a person. Do not simply reiterate your personal data. This piece is often how prospective donors will “know” you.

Possible topics:

- Events, people or places who have influenced you and why.
- A special interest, passion or challenge; what it has taught you and where it might lead you.
- Include a specific explanation of how you intend to further your education and why.
- Where have you been, where are you now, and where are you going?
- Tell us something you want us to know about you.

Some things to consider:

- Essays must be at least one full page in length.
- If an essay has numerous spelling and grammatical errors, you will be asked to correct and resubmit.
- You are giving permission for your essay to be read by the “public”, i.e. scholarship donors who are community members.
- Some information from student notebooks will be included in the ceremony.

Letters of Recommendation

How to request a letter of recommendation from a teacher and a community member:

- Choose 2 individuals who can describe your strengths.
 1. Ask one teacher for a letter of recommendation for your notebook.
 2. Ask one community member for a letter of recommendation for your notebook. A coach or mentor qualifies as a community member, even if they are also a teacher.

*These letters may **NOT** be written by family members such as parents, step-parents, siblings, aunts, uncles or grandparents.*

- Choose the 2 individuals as soon as possible. At the bottom of the Commitment Form, indicate whom you will request your recommendation letters from. This form is due to VCSF on November 2, 2022.
- Approach the individuals early (before November 2) so they have ample opportunity to compose and type their letter for you.
- Check back to see if the letters have been completed. It is your responsibility to obtain the letters, before Christmas Break, and include them in your notebook for submission on January 11, 2023.
- Make and keep copies of your letters of recommendation. You may want to use them again for your college applications.
- *When you request a letter of recommendation, you are asking a favor. An organized, courteous request makes a good impression, and a verbal thank you or a simple note will be appreciated.*

Instructions for Biography

We would like you to write your own very brief biography to be printed in the VCSF ceremony program. Your bio will introduce you to the community in 35-45 words. At the top of the bio, print your name as you want it to appear in the program.

Be specific. Be positive. Be honest. Be yourself.

Thinking about these questions might give you ideas for your bio:

- Which words and phrases best describe me?
- Which school-related activities or accomplishments mean the most to me?
- Which interests and activities outside of school are important to me?
- What makes me an individual in the VHS class of 2023?
- What do my friends like most about me?
- What are my post high school interests and plans?

Here are some example bios:

In addition to academics, I enjoy lacrosse, soccer and piano. I like to solve problems and hope to study engineering. My friends know me for my sense of humor, my positive attitude, and my ability to navigate the Hecate Strait!

I am imaginative, quiet and kind. I write fiction and hope to offer the brief escape of a compelling story to my readers. I find strength and inspiration in standing up for social and political change to benefit the common good.

An adventurous Alaskan childhood endowed me with a set of practical skills and a wealth of memories associated with my grandma's cooking. Intrigued with food and healthy eating, I plan to be a chef in my own restaurant.

I like to write nearly everything, including "to do" lists. My experience as cheer co-captain has honed my confidence. I consider myself a serious student who embraces challenge and approaches life with empathy for others.

You must submit a copy of your typed bio when you submit your scholarship notebook on January 11, 2023. The VCSF board may request editing of the bios prior to the ceremony.

Helpful Hints

Read Carefully!

Our Donors, the Community Selection Panel, and the VCSF Board award scholarships by matching each scholarship's criteria to a student's interests, achievements, and aspirations. Therefore, put a lot of thought into what you say about yourself and how the pages will look to the reader. Neatness, accuracy, and correct spelling make a very positive impression. The application packet is meant to be an honest reflection of your personality, interests, accomplishments, and priorities. Remember, however, that your application will be viewed by members of the greater Vashon community. Give only details that you would be comfortable sharing with the general public.

Here are some helpful hints for your success:

- Meet all deadlines.
- Proofread everything! Ask a parent or friend to proofread too-they'll catch what you miss!
- The collage pages are a creative visual display about you– they should reflect your personality and interests. Donors really love these pages!
- Make photocopies of certificates, artwork, awards and other artifacts to use on the collage pages. Do not turn in originals.
- We won't accept additional materials such as thumb drives, etc.
- Requests for a deadline extension due to health issues or unexpected circumstances that are beyond the student's control will be considered by the board. Students should reach out to their counselor if such issues arise.
- The items you include in your notebook/application may be useful when making applications for college, other scholarships, or employment. Consider making one photocopy of completed application and saving all digital files BEFORE you turn in. *You will not have access to your notebook after turn-in until the Scholarship Ceremony in May.*

VCSF Scholarship Commitment Form

This sheet is to be completed and returned to VHS on November 2, 2022.

Student name (print, please): _____

(Write the name you wish to go by in the ceremony program along with your preferred pronouns)

Student's email: _____

Cell: _____ Text? Yes _____ No _____

I, _____, along with my parents/guardian, agree to the following:

- Meet all VCSF deadlines and submit 5 forms and disclosure agreements.
- Participate in the ceremony on May 31, 2023. Format of ceremony TBD.
- Submit a written "thank you" to my donor(s).
- Authorize VISD to release my transcript to VCSF.
- I understand that serious misconduct (per VHS Discipline Code) will jeopardize my eligibility and authorize Vashon Island School District to notify VCSF in the event of suspension or expulsion from VISD.

Student signature: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

2nd parent signature if parents live separately: _____

(We realize that in some cases a 2nd parent is neither involved nor available.)

Request for Letter of Recommendation from a teacher who has had you in class.

- This teacher has agreed to write a letter of recommendation.
- Teacher's name printed: _____

Request for Letter of Recommendation from a community member:

- I plan to ask one of the following individual to write a letter: _____

VCSF Scholarship Recipient Release Form

This sheet is to be completed and returned with your scholarship notebook on January 11, 2023. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION.

VCSF requests your permission to release your photo and/or information about you and your scholarship award, if applicable, to the general public via foundation materials, such as our website, social media pages, brochures, video, or audio, and other print media.

The purpose is to inform the general public, including families, students, teachers, principals, local community leaders, and business leaders about available post-secondary education assistance and also provide information to the public – such as donors and potential donors – that the funds are being distributed as intended.

- YES, VCSF has permission (parent or guardian if under 18 years of age) to release information publicly. Specifically, I agree to allow my name, photograph, general biographical information and college information to be published as a scholarship recipient on appropriate public relations occasions. I release VCSF and their respective [board members and agents] from any and all liability which may arise from the use of such information.
- NO, VCSF does not have permission (parent or guardian if under 18 years of age) to release information publicly.

Student Signature		Date
Student First Name	MI	Last Name
Mailing Address	City	State & Zip Code
Student Phone Number	Student E-mail Address	
Parent/Guardian Signature (if student is under 18 years of age)		Date
Parent/Guardian Name		Parent Phone Number

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