

The Governor's Coalition for Youth with Disabilities The Bright Lights Scholarship Application Process Frequently Asked Questions

How can we determine if a student is eligible to apply for the bright lights scholarship?

To be eligible to apply for a GCYD Scholarship the student must meet the following criteria:

- Is currently a graduating high school senior planning to attend post-secondary education.
- A permanent resident of Connecticut (CT residents attending high school outside of the state are eligible).
- Have a disability under Special Education Law or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

How are scholarship winners selected?

All applicants are reviewed by a panel of judges. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of the following 3 criteria.

- The manner in which candidates have overcome the obstacles created by their disability.
- The degree to which the candidates have contributed to their school and community through service, leadership and being a positive role model.
- The candidate's promise for a successful career.

Does the severity of the disability enter into the judging process?

While there is not an order of selection, the more severely disabled applicants typically have greater challenges to overcome. Judges will consider applicant's accomplishments in relationship to the limitations imposed by the disability.

What can I do to assist the student with the application process?

You can help in the following ways:

- Inform all guidance counselors, Title 1, and Special Education staff about the Bright Lights Scholarships.
- Get the word out to eligible students. You can download a copy of the Bright Lights Flyer and post it on school bulletin boards.
- Assist your school's nominee(s) in completing all parts of the application. Feel free to attach additional documentation to support the application such as the student's resume, letters of recommendation, and transcripts.

For additional questions, please email us at info@gcyd.org

Mail the completed applications and supporting materials by January 10, 2011 to:

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