

2023-2024 STERLING SCHOLAR INSTRUCTIONS

- Apply for as many categories as you feel qualified for. However, you may only be selected in ONE category.
- Please visit www.sterlingscholar.org to see what various colleges in the state offer depending upon how far you advance in the competition. This can be found under the “STUDENTS” tab at the top, then click on the “BENEFITS” tab.
- **Check the suggested list of requirements each department has compiled. Remember these items are strong suggestions, not absolutes. The more classes and experience you have in the content area, the greater your chances of being selected.**
- If applying for more than one area, be sure to include:
 - ✓ One application for each area
 - ✓ A transcript for each application (printed from your myDSD account)
 - ✓ A list of all areas in which you apply (in appropriate place on application)

Applications are due to Department Representatives on Friday, November 3, by 2:30 p.m.

- You will be contacted by each department about interview time. Contact department representative if you don't hear from them or have any questions.
- Check with the department head to see if you need to bring anything to the interview.
- Application
 - ✓ NEATNESS COUNTS. No typos. Be sure to TYPE the application (you may download it in Word).
 - ✓ You can attach an additional sheet if you can't fit all info onto application.
 - ✓ Don't put in fluff. Make accomplishments meaningful.
 - ✓ Turn in application to department representative.
 - ✓ You might not have taken all the tests (not everyone has had the SAT). Leave blank if not applicable.
 - ✓ If you don't have your test scores, check with the Counseling office.
- Interview
 - ✓ If there is a large number of applicants, some departments might not interview every applicant
 - ✓ Practice
 - ✓ Dress up
 - ✓ Be on time
- Applicants are judged based on the following areas:
 1. **SCHOLARHIP: (25% of score)** Overall GPA, difficulty of class schedule, standardized test scores such as ACT or SAT, class ranking and similar scholarship items attained during high school.
 2. **CATEGORY SCHOLARSHIP: (25% of score).** Emphasis is placed on the nominee's ability and talent in their specific category. Judges seek evidence of growth and service in all activities. The nominee's talent and aptitude within their category will receive particular emphasis in this part of the judging.

3. **LEADERSHIP: (25% of score).** The qualities of leadership in Utah public high schools can be measured in part by the responsibilities in student government, clubs, community organizations and sports.
4. **COMMUNITY SERVICE/CITIZENSHIP: (25% of score).** Each Sterling Scholar nominee should exhibit a record of high standards of citizenship throughout his/her high school years. Service to school, community or other organizations will be considered. Nominee's attitude toward the acceptance of responsibility in contribution roles, **as well as seeking out service opportunities** will be especially important. Evidence of a long-term commitment to service will also receive particular attention. **It is not too late to do service in your area! This is extremely important if you plan to go succeed at the next level of competition.** You don't have to go to a foreign country to have your efforts count as service. Service over long period of time—two-three years—is what judges find most impressive. Service opportunities INITIATED by the student rather than opportunities ATTENDED by the student are given much more weight and consideration.

The department will conduct an interview to discuss your portfolio with you. This is also helpful if you advance to the finals, since you will be required to participate in an interview if you make it to that level of the competition.

- During the interview, judges will evaluate the nominee's ability to answer questions pertaining to their category. Body language, technical knowledge, communication skills, and plans for continued education in the category will all be included in the interview assessment.

The list of school winners for all categories will be posted online on Friday, November 17.

All selected Sterling Scholars will need to meet on Monday, November 20 during SRC in Ms. Merrell's room #263 to discuss the next steps in the process.