



## **Excellence Without Limits**

### **External Academic, Artistic, and Leadership Opportunities for Student Distinction**

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*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit." – Will Durant on Aristotle*

Aristotle understands that excellence is not a state of being, but the result of doing and becoming. The intent of curating this Opportunities List, which is not exhaustive, acknowledges both the immense talent and promise of WRA students and the increasingly competitive world in which we all live. All of these programs present WRA students with challenges and opportunities to engage with ideas and people beyond WRA's curriculum and personalities. We encourage students to consider thoughtfully their personal and academic goals and to research whether or not one or some of these programs might present them with exciting ways to explore, meet, and potentially surpass those goals. Additionally, realizing that summers are opportunities for students to explore particular interests, we have included information about some summer programs that are highly-selective for admission and are often fully-funded for those admitted.

In developing this list, we have considered what external opportunities have value in their pursuit beyond winning. Put differently: in which programs does meaningful learning occur regardless of final achievement? We are confident that the opportunities that follow complement the transformative education that Reserve provides and illustrate that the pursuit of excellence, like learning, knows no limits.

The Reserve community has the resources and capacity to mentor and guide. Students who are considering any of these opportunities should contact Mr. Douglas Ray ([rayd@wra.net](mailto:rayd@wra.net)).

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### **Recognition Without Initial, Direct Application**

**National Merit Scholarship Program** (U.S. citizens in grades 11-12) **Based on junior year PSAT score—test is administered in October** A multiphase competition based on test performance to be named Semifinalist. Finalist and

scholar determination is based on further information.

<http://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/start.aspx?gid=2&pgid=61>

**United States Presidential Scholars Program** (U.S. citizens in grade 12)  
**Candidates are first identified by the Department of Education and White House by being the top scorers on standardized tests** Candidates are invited to write a series of essays and provide additional information to achieve semifinalist status. 161 of the nation's top high school graduates receive this honor. <http://www.presidentialscholars.org/> and <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>

## Leadership and Service

**Buckeye Boys State\*** (11<sup>th</sup> grade boys who are residents of Ohio and U.S. citizens) **Contact state coordinator for information** Sponsored by the American Legion, this weeklong summer program is to prepare junior boys with interest in government and leadership.  
<http://www.ohiobuckeyeboysstate.com/index.html>

**Buckeye Girls State\*** (11<sup>th</sup> grade girls who are residents of Ohio and U.S. citizens) **Candidates are chosen in a selection and interview process (lasting from potentially December to May) conducted by the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit in communities** A weeklong program designed to educate Ohio's young women in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of good citizenship. <http://buckeyegirlsstate.org>

**Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship** (Current high school seniors attending school in the U.S. who are U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Permanent Residents, Refugees, Asylees, Cuban-Haitian Entrants, or Humanitarian Parolees) **Application opens in August 2017 and closes October 31, 2017** A robust scholarship program that looks at biographical information, school activities, community activities, academic information, and employment information. 150 scholars are selected each year to receive \$20,000 scholarships.

**Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership\*** (Ohio-based 10<sup>th</sup> graders) **Schools select one sophomore to attend the Ohio summer program** HOBY is designed for high school sophomores to recognize their leadership talents and apply them in becoming effective, ethical leaders in their home, schools, workplace, and community. <http://www.hobyohio.org>

**Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** (Legal residents of any U.S. state or Washington, D.C. in grades 5-12) **Completed application due by November 8**  
This award is the largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism. Awards are given at the local, state, and national level.

<https://spirit.prudential.com>

**United States Senate Youth Program** (U.S./Ohio citizens in grades 11 and 12)  
**Ohio selects participants who have attended Buckeye Boys State, Buckeye Girls State, or the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) programs in Ohio**

Sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, two students attend the annual program in Washington, D.C., each March and receive \$10,000.

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/US-Senate-Youth-Program> and <http://ussenateyouth.org>

\* participation in these three programs determines the candidate pool for the United States Senate Youth Program (in Ohio)

## Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary

**Davidson Fellows** (U.S. citizens 18 and under) **Deadline in February** Fellows receive awards of \$50,000, \$25,000, and \$10,000 in recognition of completion of a significant piece of work in the following categories: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Literature, Music, Philosophy, and Outside the Box.

<https://www.davidsongifted.org/Fellows-Scholarship>

**MIT Inspire: National high School Research Competition in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences** (U.S. citizens or permanent residents enrolled in high school and under the age of 19) **Submit an “Intent to Participate” for by the end of November and an Abstract, Research Report, and Approval and Attestation Form by the end of December** Sponsored by MIT, a multifaceted research program for high school students.

<https://getinspired.mit.edu/inquire-discover-enlighten>

**Rachel Carson Intergenerational Sense of Wonder / Sense of the Wild Contest** (Be from an “intergenerational team”) **Deadline for submission is November 10, 2017** Your team will respond to one of two themes based on Rachel Carson’s environmental writing. There are six different broad categories for producing work.

<http://rachelcarsonlandmarkalliance.org/events-outreach/rachel-carson-intergenerational-sense-of-wondersense-of-the-wild-contest-2017/>

## Art

**Congressional Art Competition** (Grades 7-12) **Deadlines vary. Contact Representative's Office.** Students submit art to their representative's office. Two-dimensional art (no larger than 26" x 26" x 4") and no more than 15 pounds in a variety of mediums is eligible for submission.  
[http://www.house.gov/content/educate/art\\_competition/](http://www.house.gov/content/educate/art_competition/)

**Scholastic Art Awards** (Grades 7-12) **Sept. 13, 2017-End of December 2017**

Open to any student enrolled in American schools to submit visual art in a variety of categories for regional and national adjudication.  
<http://www.artandwriting.org/>

**YoungArts** (15-18 year olds) **Applications open until October 13, 2017.** Students apply for national recognition in the following categories: cinematic arts, classical music, dance, design arts, jazz photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. This competition also determines the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts. <http://www.youngarts.org/apply>

## Creative Writing

**Note:** Two literary magazines that often publish works by high school students and sponsor contests specifically for high school writers are *The Claremont Review* (<https://www.theclaremontreview.ca>) and *The Adroit Journal* (<http://www.theadroitjournal.org>).

**Bennington Young Writers Awards** (Grades 10-12) Competitions in poetry (group of three poems), fiction (a short story or one-act play), or nonfiction (a personal or academic essay) can be submitted. **Submissions must be made from September 1-November 1.**  
<http://www.bennington.edu/events/young-writers-awards>

**Letters About Literature** (Grades 4-12) **Entries Accepted from Beginning of November to Beginning of December** Sponsored by the Library of Congress, students read a work of fiction, nonfiction, a play or a poem and write a letter to the author that reflects on the work. <http://www.read.gov/letters/>

**Nancy Thorp Poetry Contest** (Women in grades 10 and 11) **Deadline is last day of October** Sponsored by Hollins University, students submit no more than two

poems for consideration. Winners receive free tuition and housing for the university's summer creative writing program, \$200, publication in *Cargoes*, and 10 copies of *Cargoes*.

<https://www.hollins.edu/academics/majors-minors/english-creative-writing-major/nancy-thorp-poetry-contest/>

**Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers** (Grades 10-11) **Submissions open from November 1-30.** Submit one poem to this contest run by The Kenyon Review to receive a full scholarship to the Kenyon Review Young Writers workshop and potential publication.

<http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests/patricia-grodd/>

**Scholastic Writing Awards** (Grades 7-12) **Sept. 13, 2017-Beginning of December 2017** Open to any student enrolled in American schools to submit writing in a variety of categories for regional and national adjudication.

<http://www.artandwriting.org/>

**YoungArts** (15-18 year olds) **Applications open until October 13, 2017.** Students apply for national recognition in the following categories: cinematic arts, classical music, dance, design arts, jazz photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. This competition also determines the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts. <http://www.youngarts.org/apply>

## Essay

**American Foreign Service Association National High School Essay Contest** (Grades 9-12) **Submission to this contest opens in September and extends to March** This contest is another name for the United States Institutes of Peace High School Essay Contest (below), and students write an essay of between 1000-1250 words in response to a prompt. <http://www.afsa.org/essay-contest>

**Cum Laude Paper** (Juniors and Seniors) **Two copies of an essay selected for submission by the Cum Laude Committee are due to the national office by August 1, 2018, with award announcement by February 2019** Requiring nomination by a campus selection committee, this essay competition awards \$500 at the regional level and \$5000 at the national level to a paper of superior scholarship written at a school that harbors a chapter of the Cum Laude Society. <http://cumlaudesociety.org/pdf/cls-paper.pdf>

**Facing History and Ourselves Essay Contest** (13 years or older) **Contest details are announced in early February, with a window for submission about a month later. Deadline is mid-March** In a 500-word essay, students respond to a particular prompt. <http://contest.facinghistory.org/choices/>

**George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest** (U.S. citizens or “legal aliens” in grades 9-12) **Deadline for submission is December, but for Ohio details, the state Knight Essay Contest Contact should be consulted** Students interested in the American Revolution submit an essay of 800-1200 words based on an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or United States Constitution. Run by the Sons of the American Revolution as the local, state, and national phases of competition. <https://www.sar.org/education/youth-contests-awards/george-s-stella-m-knight-essay-contest>

**Profile in Courage Essay Contest** (U.S. high school students in grades 9-12) **Submissions accepted from September to January** Submit an essay of between 700-1000 words on a particular topic (adhering to the very specific guidelines). First place prize of \$20,000 and cash awards for the top 25 essays. <https://www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Profile-in-Courage-Essay-Contest/Contest-Information-and-Topic-Guidelines.aspx>

**Society of Professional Journalists / Journalism Education Association Essay Contest** (Any student in grades 9-12) **Essays accepted from November 3, 2017 to February 23, 2018** A 300-500 word essay written in response to a topic announced in the fall. Three awards of \$1000, \$500, and \$300 are awarded. <http://jea.org/home/awards-honors/high-school-essay-contest/>

**United States Institutes of Peace High School Essay Contest** (Grades 9-12) **Submission opens in September and extends to March** Students write an essay of between 1000-1250 words in response to a prompt. <https://www.usip.org/public-education/students/AFSAEssayContest>

**We the Students Essay Contest** (U.S. citizens or legal residents between 14 and 19 years old) **Submissions accepted from September-February** Submit a 500-800 word essay to this contest run by the Bill of Right Institute in pursuit of a \$5000 prize. <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/engage/students-programs-events/scholarship/>

History

**The Concord Review** (Must complete the submitted paper before finishing secondary school) Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis; those being published are notified in advance of their essay appearing in the journal This quarterly-published academic journal publishes history essays of (typically) between 4,000-6,000 words by secondary students. <http://www.tcr.org/>

**Ohio History Day** (Grades 6-12) Regional, state, and national competition linked with National History Day, students submit papers, media documentaries, exhibits, websites, and performances for adjudication. WRA is part of Region 3. 2018 Theme: Conflict and Compromise in History. Regional competition is March 3, 2018. <https://www.wrhs.org/explore/history-day/> and <https://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/education-and-outreach/ohio-history-day>

## Language

**National Latin Exam** (6-12) An annual contest where students take a 40-question test according to their level that also ties to scholarships. Spring of each year. <https://nle.org>

**National Security Language Initiative for Youth** (U.S. citizens 15-18 years old with a GPA of 2.5-4.0 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent) Applications open in August and must be completed in October. A detailed timeline is provided. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, this program provides merit-based scholarships to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and academic-year immersion programs: Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkish. <http://www.nsliforyouth.org>

## Mathematics

\*\*AoPS (Art of Problem Solving) has a list of United States high school mathematics competitions here: [https://artofproblemsolving.com/wiki/index.php?title=List\\_of\\_United\\_States\\_high\\_school\\_mathematics\\_competitions](https://artofproblemsolving.com/wiki/index.php?title=List_of_United_States_high_school_mathematics_competitions)

**American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) / American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME)** (Grades 9-12) The AMC tests are administered in February of each year. The AMC 10 and AMC 12 are both 25-question, 75-minute, multiple-choice examinations in high school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills.

Exceptional performance yields an invitation to take the AIME.  
<https://www.maa.org/math-competitions/about-amc>

**Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament** (Grades 9-12) **Application to compete must be completed by early October; tournament is schedule for November 11, 2017** Individual and team competitions for high school students.  
<http://www.hmmt.co/>

**Moody's Mega Math Challenge** (Grades 11 and 12) **Problem weekend is usually in February; once the problem is downloaded the teams have a 14-hour window to complete their work** An internet-based challenge that poses a real-world problem and has teams of students focus on the problem with mathematic modeling. <https://m3challenge.siam.org/challenge/about>

**Ohio Math League** (Grades 4-12) This contest is ongoing over the course of the year. Students are given 6 problems to solve at 6 different points in the year. Individual and team scores allow for competition against other participating individuals and schools in the league. **Contests begin in the fall.**  
<http://www.themathleague.com>

## Music

**ASCAP Foundation Charlotte Bergen Scholarship** (U.S. citizen or permanent resident under 18 years old) **Submission begins in December and extends to the beginning of February** For composers of classical music at the earliest stages of their careers and judged by the Morton Gould panel.  
<https://www.ascap.com/help/career-development/support/morton-gould-guide-lines>

**ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards** (U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have not reached their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday) **Deadline is beginning of February** For encouragement of composers of classical music at the earliest stages of their careers.  
<https://www.ascapfoundation.org/programs/awards/young-composer-awards>

**School Band and Orchestra Magazine Essay Scholarship** (Grades 9-12) **Topic and entry form available September 1, 2017** An essay contest that invites students to write a short essay on their participation in music programs that offers 5 \$1000 scholarships. <http://sbomagazine.com/essay-contest.html>



**YoungArts** (15-18 year olds) **Applications open until October 13, 2017.** Students apply for national recognition in the following categories: cinematic arts, classical music, dance, design arts, jazz photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. This competition also determines the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts. <http://www.youngarts.org/apply>

## Science and Computer Science

**BEST (Bridging Engineering, Science and Technology) Medicine engineering fair** (Grades 6-12) Sponsored by the University of Akron, this engineering fair is devoted to students interested in exploring biomedical engineering. **Application deadline is in February, but work begins much earlier.** <http://www.uakron.edu/engineering/BME/bestmedicine/index.dot>

**District Science Day** (9-12) Sponsored by the Ohio Academy of Sciences, students compete at colleges and universities and showcase their research. WRA is in District 5. **Competition days are in March, but work begins much earlier.** <http://www.ohiosci.org/district-science-day/>

**Google Code-in** (Ages 13-17) **Contest information released in October** A web-based competition for students interested in coding, design, and development. <https://developers.google.com/open-source/gci/>

**Google Science Fair** **Details coming this fall; sign up for notification here:** <https://services.google.com/fb/forms/sciencefairen/> Beginning with online submissions, this competition invites young scientists from all over the world to compete for up to \$50,000 in scholarships as well as a trip to the Galapagos Islands sponsored by National Geographic. Finalists are invited to Google Headquarters to present their projects before expert judges. <https://www.google.com/url?hl=en&q=http://www.google.com/events/sciencefair/&source=gmail&ust=1503855782923000&usg=AFQjCNEXgXJGGLqvKNIsiOPWreAcl6ShDQ>

**Intel International Science and Engineering Fair** **Must qualify at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (See Below) to participate** The Intel ISEF is possibly the world's largest international pre-college science competition, providing an annual forum for over 1,800 high school students from countries all over the world who compete for approximately \$4 million in awards. Competition begins at the high school level and culminates at the

International Science and Engineering Fair, held each year in different cities around the country. <https://student.societyforscience.org/intel-isef>

**MIT THINK Scholars Program** (9-12) **Application deadline is January 1** THINK (Technology for Humanity guided by Innovation, Networking, and Knowledge) is a competition to fund and support ideas from high school students. <http://think.mit.edu/>

**Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair** (7-12) Affiliated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, NEOSEF hosts over 600 students from 80 schools to set up science fair displays and discuss their projects with over 250 judges. **Competition is in early March, but work begins much earlier with application deadline usually in early February.** <http://www.neosef.org>

**Ohio Junior Science and Humanities Symposium** (9-12) **March 14-16, 2018; details of regional competition: contact Dr. Emilio Duran, BGSU, eduran@bgsu.edu** The Junior Science and Humanities Symposia (JSHS) Program invites high school students to submit a paper on an original research investigation in the sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematics. JSHS scholarships are awarded to finalists in the regional symposia paper, or poster, competition to recognize excellence in STEM. Affiliated with the U.S. Department of Defense, regional competitions feed into national competitions with awards of up to \$12,000 each. <http://www.bgsu.edu/nwo/programs/ohio-junior-science-and-humanities-symposium.html>

**Regeneron Science Talent Search** (Seniors Only) **Deadline for application is November 15, 2017** This competition is one of the nation's most prestigious science competition for high school seniors, providing an important forum for original research that is recognized and reviewed by a national jury of professional scientists. The competition recognizes 300 student scholars and their schools each year and invites 40 student finalists to Washington, D.C. to participate in final judging, display their work to the public, and meet with notable scientists and government leaders. Each year, Regeneron STS scholars and finalists compete for \$3.1 million in awards. <https://student.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts>

## Selective and Distinctive Summer Programs

**Note:** Please also see Buckeye Boys State, Buckeye Girls State, and the Hugh O'Brian Youth listings under "Leadership and Service" and the National Security Language Initiative under "Language"

**Bank of America Student Leaders Program** (Grades 11-12 who are legally authorized to work in the U.S.) **Application opens in the fall** 225 high school juniors and seniors are awarded paid summer internships with local nonprofits and participate in a national leadership summit in Washington, D.C.  
<http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/what-guides-us/student-leaders.html#bid=RwlqGobSUbl>

**MIT Lincoln Laboratory Radar Introduction for Student Engineers (LLRISE)** (High School Juniors who are U.S. Citizens and have completed physics and pre-calculus) **Applications must be submitted by the end of March** This free two-week residential program teaches students how to build small radar systems. Approximately 18 students are accepted.  
<http://www.ll.mit.edu/outreach/LLrise.html>

**Telluride Association Summer Program** (For current juniors / rising seniors—U.S. citizenship is **NOT** required) **Applications available in mid-October and due in January** Students participate in topical seminars led by teams of scholars each day for six weeks. Students develop their critical thinking and writing skills with the direction of top academic scholars. These completely free seminars take place on the campuses of Cornell University and the University of Michigan.  
<http://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/summer-program-juniors-tasp/>

**Telluride Association Sophomore Summer** (For current sophomores / rising juniors—U.S. citizenship is **NOT** required) **Application is due in January** This highly-selective and completely free program offers six-week college-level seminars on topics related to critical Black and ethnic studies. Seminars are held at Cornell University and the University of Michigan.  
<http://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/sophomore-seminar-tass/>

**University of Notre Dame Leadership Seminars** (High School Juniors) **Application opens in October and must be submitted by the end of January** High-achieving students with strong academic profiles come together to explore topics affecting the global community. All expenses are paid—including transportation to and from Notre Dame. 100 students are accepted and receive college credit. The program generally lasts 10 days in July.  
<http://precollege.nd.edu/leadership-seminars/>

**U.S. Naval Academy STEM Programs** (Separate programs for rising 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders) **Application opens in January and closes in April** This selective, weeklong program at the Naval Academy is designed to encourage rising 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders to pursue rigorous study in STEM fields. Tuition is \$550 and some scholarships are available.

<https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/Programs/STEM/index.php>



