



ICCC Leo Walsh Scholarship Program 2016 College & High School Scholarship Application

Leo Walsh founded the Scholarship Program in 1994 to benefit the children of the Irish Community. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than 325 scholarships to students entering the next level of their education. All funds are raised through speaker programs, raffles, memorial contributions and personal donations from friends of the Irish community. This year, the Irish Cultural Centre of California (ICCC) Leo Walsh Scholarship Program will award five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors and five \$750 scholarships to graduating eighth graders.

*Applications available online @ <http://www.icccsf.org>

The eligibility requirements include the following criteria:

1. Applicants must be 8th graders continuing on to high school, or graduating high school seniors entering a university or college in the fall of 2016.
2. Applicants must be enrolling in an institution requiring tuition and/or fees in the fall.
3. Application, essay, and recommendation forms must be completed and received by the ICCC by March 17, 2016 to be qualified. Absolutely no application documents will be accepted after the March 17, 2016 deadline, no exceptions.
4. Each applicant must submit an acceptable typed essay with the application. Eighth grade essays are to be 500 words or less. High school senior essays are to be 750 words or less. Applicants are encouraged to utilize the resources at various libraries such as the Patrick J. Dowling Library located in the United Irish Cultural Center. An independent committee will evaluate the essays. The essays will count for 60% of the application process. Essay topics for the 2016 applications appear as #10.
5. The attached ICCC two page recommendation form must be completed by the applicant's counselor, school administrator, or current teacher. It may be hand delivered with application and essay, or it may be mailed directly to the ICCC, Attn: Leo Walsh Scholarship Program, but must be received by the ICCC by March 17, 2016. The person evaluating the applicant may be contacted to confirm submission.

*****PLEASE NOTE***: The ICCC Recommendation Form is the only document that will be accepted and rated. No additional letters of recommendation, transcript etc. will be considered.**

6. Based on the combination of essay (60%) and the recommendation evaluation (15%) scores, a limited number of qualified applicants (semi-finalists) will be invited to appear before an interview panel on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at the United Irish Cultural Center.

- A semi-finalist who cannot appear for the in person interview on May 1st during the allotted hours will not be eligible for an interview.

The interview will count for 25% of the application process and will be combined with essay and recommendation evaluation scores to determine the successful scholarship winners. Finalists will be notified in early May. The scholarship awards presentation will be held on Thursday evening, May 12th, in the St. Francis Room at the United Irish Cultural Center.

7. Essays become the property of the ICCC.

8. Applicants must reside in California and be of demonstrable Irish descent.

9. Children of the Scholarship Committee members are not eligible to apply to the Scholarship Program.

10. Essay:

Eighth Grade Topic: (500 words or less)

The eighth grade essay topic is Irish Surnames. A surname, also known as a last or family name, is a fixed name shared in common with the members of a family and is passed down from generation to generation. If the surname of the applicant is not Irish, then the applicant may instead write about the Irish surname of a parent or grandparent. Write an essay about the meaning of your family name; how it was derived; place of origin in Ireland, and its history. Then select a historical personality with the same surname and write about his/her place in history.

High School Senior Topic: (750 words or less)

Select an Irish American, with roots from the same County in Ireland as your ancestors, who became a leader in industry, commerce, public service, education, religious vocation, sports, or entertainment that made a positive contribution to American society. Include in your essay why you chose this person and discuss their significant accomplishments.

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Applications Due: March 17, 2016

Drop off or mail to:

**Irish Cultural Centre of California
Attn: Leo Walsh Scholarship Program
2700 45th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116**

Complete Application Packets include:

- Completed Personal Information Form (this page)
- Completed Recommendation Form (all sections must be answered and scored)
- Completed Typed Essay

Please email scholarship@icccsf.org if you have any questions.

Student's name: _____

Student or Parent
Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Current school: _____

School(s) applicant wants to attend in the fall:

Parents Name(s): _____

Home Phone Number: _____

***Irish Cultural Centre of California (ICCC)
Leo Walsh Scholarship Program***

2016 College & High School Scholarship Recommendation Form

Student's name _____

Current school _____

Dear School Administrator, Counselor or Teacher:

This student is applying for a 2016 scholarship sponsored by the ICCC Leo Walsh Scholarship Program. In addition to the student's requirement to write an essay, another important element of the application process includes your evaluation of the student and your scores on page 2. We ask your assistance in completing the recommendation form. Your thoughts are extremely important in the selection process. If you have any hesitation about recommending the student, please make the appropriate comments on this form. Thank you. All evaluation forms are **confidential**.

Only the responses on this form will be evaluated. No additional letters, etc. will be considered.

You may return the form directly to the student in a sealed envelope or you can mail it directly to:

ICCC, Attn: Leo Walsh Scholarship Program,
2700 - 45th Ave. San Francisco, CA 94116

*****Must be received by March 17, 2016.*****

Name of school administrator, counselor, or teacher: _____

Academic relationship to applicant: _____

Email address: _____

Student's Name: _____

Please evaluate the applicant in each of the following three categories using a scale of 10 to 1 (Ten (10) being "Outstanding" and One (1) being "Fair".)

*****Please fill in numeric score**

1) Standards of Conduct:

***Score:** _____

Please comment on student's commitment to upholding the mission of your institution.

2) Leadership Skills:

***Score:** _____

Please comment on student's interest/ability to lead peers. Please list specific examples and/or positions the student holds.

3) Commitment to Education:

***Score:** _____

Please comment on student's interest in learning, both inside and outside the classroom.