

## Tips for Completing Your NVSL Scholarship Application

**Please plan ahead!** Allow yourself time to write a thoughtful essay and consider your strengths, contributions and involvements during your high school years. Complete the application yourself, without help from parents, friends, or AI. Submit your app well before the deadline. Applications can be accepted as early as May 1.

**Ask for your letters of recommendation at least two weeks in advance.** A letter that is truly personal and meaningful requires a fair amount of time and effort by the writer. A letter that is rushed and generic will not help your application.

**Read instructions carefully.** Include your leadership positions and time spent (hours per week, number of seasons, number of years) when describing your activities.

**Keep your focus on your activities during your high school years.**

**Use bullet points** to organize your qualifications and make them easy to read. Don't forget to include details such as team captain, state qualifier, top fundraiser, MVP, etc.

**For the essay, the more personal it is, the better.** Be sure to address the prompt.

**Communicate if any issues arise.** If one of your recommendation writers has gone on vacation and forgotten to send your letter, email the committee chair. But don't wait until the due date to ask for help or advice!

**Proofread your application before submitting.** Did you include everything you want the committee to know? Check your essay for typos and other errors.

**Can you win a scholarship if you are not an All-Star or a coach?** Yes! It's important to show consistent effort over a period of time. Be specific in describing your contributions. See below how example 2 is more informative than example 1.

### Example 1

- Mentored younger swimmers.
- Helped with skits.
- Cheered my teammates.
- Sold concessions.

### Example 2

- For the past 3 seasons, have used my experience swimming butterfly to help younger swimmers achieve a legal stroke and be able to swim in divisionals.
- Wrote most of our team's skits over the past 2 seasons and helped get the younger swimmers more involved in them.
- Made a video of all our team's cheers so that new team members would know them before their first meet.
- Sold concessions at every B meet last season to raise money for new lane lines.