

The Tennis Opportunity Program (TOP) scholarship application for 2015-2016

TOP is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide economically-disadvantaged Chicago youth with the opportunity to achieve excellence -- as students, as tennis players, and as citizens. The organization has been providing tennis and academic support in the Chicago area for more than 20 years.

The TOP Board of Directors is accepting scholarship applications from Chicago youth, ages 6-18, for the 2015 - 16 season. TOP students receive weekly group and/or semi-private tennis lessons, academic support, assistance with tournament expenses, and personal development mentoring.

Completed applications should be sent to:

 Lesley Seeger, Student Selection Committee Co-Chair

Tennis Opportunity Program, Inc.

332 S. Michigan Ave.

Suite 1032, #T530

Chicago, IL 60604-4434

Applications must be received by Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Only complete applications will be considered (see page 5).

Finalists will be interviewed within the first 2 weeks of July.

Selection of TOP Students for 2015-16 is anticipated by July 31, 2015.

For more information or to download an application, please visit <http://www.toptennischicago.com>

Direct questions to:

Bonnie Serra (bonnie.serra14@gmail.com)

Lesley Seeger (lesleyanne415@gmail.com)

 Application for a Tennis Opportunity Program (TOP) scholarship

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

In order to be considered for the TOP program, you must meet *all* of the following conditions:
1.  Applicant must havea “B” average, or better, for the current academic year.

2. Applicant must be between the ages of 6-18. If you are 11-18 years old, you must have a Chicago District Tennis Association ranking in your age group or show promise of earning one.

3. Applicants’ parents/guardians must attach the most recent W-2 (income statement issued by employer) for *all* employment worked by both parents and a copy of their most recent federal tax return, filed with the IRS. If parents/guardians are divorced, then information regarding the parent with whom the applicant lives must be attached.

Please note that this application and all required attachments are due on Tuesday, June 30, 2015.  Applications may be submitted to Lesley Seeger via email (lesleyanne415@gmail.com) or via mail (Tennis Opportunity Program, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1032 #T530, Chicago IL 60604-4434). Supplemental information that cannot easily be scanned and emailed (such as the tax return or the essay) may be mailed separately to Lesley at the above address. An application will not be considered until all information is received and submitted, and this must occur by June 30. The TOP Board of Directors anticipates making final decisions for the 2015-16 season by July 31.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant’s name:

Parents’/guardians’ names:

Applicant’s home address:

City: State: Zip: Home phone:

Applicant’s email address:

Parents’/guardians’ email address:

Parents’/guardians’ cell phone: Applicant’s cell phone:

Applicant’s age and date of birth: Applicant’s USTA #

If parents/guardians are not available, whom should we contact in the event of an emergency?

Name: Relation to Family:

Cell phone: Home phone:

FAMILY INFORMATION

Are the applicant’s parents divorced? Separated? Deceased?

With whom does the applicant currently live? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many siblings live in the household with the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_\_ Total number in the household\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Based on the parents’/guardians’ current income, what is the total family annual income. $

Provide W-2 forms for both parents and 2014 IRS income tax return.

ACADEMICS

School:   City/town: Grade the applicant will enter in Fall 2015

If applicant is in grades 2-8, what was his/her grade average for the 2014-15 school year? (Example: “A-” or “B+”):

If applicant is in high school:

* What is applicant’s current cumulative GPA?  (Example: 3.5)
* What was applicant’s GPA for the most recent fall semester (Fall 2014)?
* What was applicant’s GPA for the most recent spring semester (Spring 2015)?
* What was applicant’s class rank in the last academic year? (Example: 8 out of 425) out of
* Has the applicant received any academic awards that TOP should consider? (Examples: valedictorian of your class; winner of city, state, or regional science fair; any type of award for achievement in other areas, such as the arts, humanities, math, etc.). Use another page if additional space is necessary.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Days and times when you are committed to an extracurricular activity that could conflict with assigned tennis lessons:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TENNIS LESSON AVAILABILITY

Should you be accepted to the program, we will begin scheduling fall tennis lessons in early August. To facilitate this process, please provide us with the days and times that you would prefer to be scheduled for group lessons.

Days/Times Not Available:

Days/Time Preferred:

TENNIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rankings: List all of your United States Tennis Association (USTA) singles and doubles rankings for 2014.  If you achieved rankings in more than one age group, list rankings from all age groups. Include Chicago District Tennis Association (CDTA), Midwest, and National rankings, if relevant. If you do not have a ranking, put “N/A” in the space provided.

Singles:
Age Group: CDTA Rank:     Midwest Rank: National Rank:

Place of Finish in State High School Championships:

Age Group: (only if ranked in more than one age group)
CDTA Rank:     Midwest Rank:     National Rank:

Doubles:
Age Group: CDTA Rank:     Midwest Rank: National Rank:

Place of Finish in State High School Championships:

List this year’s major tournament results in Singles AND Doubles.  Include name of tournament, final round finished, and approximate place of finish. Use back, if more space is needed.

Singles:

Doubles:

If you are currently taking tennis lessons, or have taken lessons in the past year, please provide the name of the tennis club and a description of the level of the class.

GOALS AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

On a separate sheet of paper, please write a short essay that answers the following questions. Please limit your total response to two pages (two pages to cover all six questions, NOT two pages per question).

1. Tell us about yourself. Write a short biographical sketch.
2. Why do you want to be part of the TOP program? How would you benefit from being in TOP?
3. What are your tennis goals for the next year?
4. What are your academic goals for the next year?
5. What are your goals for the future?
6. In what extracurricular activities do you participate?

REFERENCES (not necessary if you are a current TOP student)

Please provide us the name of three adults that we can contact who would be able to tell us about your commitment to academics, tennis, and other extracurricular areas. These could include your teachers, coaches, mentors, family friends, etc. No family members, please.

1. Name:

Title/Position

How do you know this person?

Telephone Number:

Email Address (if available):

2. Name:

Title/Position

How do you know this person?

Telephone Number:

Email Address (if available):

3. Name:

Title/Position

How do you know this person?

Telephone Number:

Email Address (if available):

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

ANY INFORMATION SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION.  Any falsification of information will result in forfeiture of the TOP scholarship award.  My parents’/guardians’ signature authorizes release, verification, and retrieval of any information, scholastic or financial, necessary to assist in the decision-making process.  All information will be kept strictly confidential.

I agree to notify the TOP Board of Directors of any change in my current status during the term of program participation.

Applicant Signature: Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date:

Please submit with the application all the components listed below:

* Contact information
* Report card \*\*
* Family Information
* Financial Information, W-2 & IRS Return for 2014 \*\*\*
* Tennis Accomplishments
* References
* Goals and Biographical Information
* Required Signatures

\*\* Please attach a copy of your final report card for the 2014-15 school year. The report card must indicate the grades earned each quarter or each semester.

\*\*\* Parents must submit their most recent W-2 (income statement issued by employer) for ALL EMPLOYMENT work by both parents AND a copy of their most recent federal tax return, filed with the IRS. If your parents are divorced, then please attach information for the parent with whom you live.

\*\*\* Information may be submitted both by mail and/or by email. Please make note on the application if additional information will be sent separately. Supplemental information that cannot easlly be scanned and emailed (such as the tax return, report card or the essay), may be mailed separately to Lesley Seeger at the address listed on the front page. Applications will not be considered until all information is received and submitted, and this must happen by June 30.