



The Tennis Opportunity Program (TOP) Scholarship Application for 2017-18

TOP is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide economically-disadvantaged Chicago area youth with the opportunity to achieve excellence -- as students, as tennis players, and as productive citizens. The organization has provided tennis and academic support to children in the Chicago area for more than 25 years.

The TOP Board of Directors is accepting scholarship applications from Chicago youth, ages 6-18, for the 2017-18 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:

**Henrietta West, 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 Thursday, June 30, 2017

Only complete applications will be considered (see page 6).

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

Selection of TOP Students for 2017-18 is anticipated by July 31, 2017.

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 have a "B" average, or better, for the current academic year.
2. Applicant must be between the ages of 6-18. If applicant is 11-18 years old, they must have a Chicago District Tennis Association ranking in their 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, information regarding the parent with whom the applicant lives, must be attached.

Please **note that this application and all required attachments are due on Friday, June 30, 2017. Applications may be submitted to Henrietta West via email (hcwcorp5@aol.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 e-mailed (such as the tax return or the essay) may be mailed separately to Ms. West, at the above address. An application will not be considered until all information is received and submitted by or before June 30. Scholarship decisions will be communicated 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 (adults and children) in the household, including applicant? _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Based on the parents'/guardians' current income, what is the total net income for the family?

Provide W-2 forms for both parents and 2016 IRS income tax return.

ACADEMICS

School: _____ City/Town: _____ Grade the applicant will enter in Fall 2017 _____

If applicant is in grades 2-8, what was his/her grade average for the 2016-17 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 2016)? _____
- What was applicant's GPA for the most recent spring semester (Spring 2017)? _____
- 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 the applicant's United States Tennis Association (USTA) singles and doubles rankings for **2016**. If applicant 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 applicant does not have a ranking, enter "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.

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: _____

E-mail Address (if available): _____

2. Name: _____

Title/Position _____

How do you know this person? _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address (if available): _____

3. Name: _____

Title/Position _____

How do you know this person? _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail 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. The applicant's 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.

The applicant's parent/guardian agrees to notify the TOP Board of Directors of any change in the applicant's 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 2016 ***
- Tennis Accomplishments
- References
- Goals and Biographical Information
- Required Signatures

** Please attach a copy of your final report card for the 2016-17 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 by both parents **AND** a copy of their most recent federal tax return, filed with the IRS. If parents are divorced, attach information for the parent with whom the child/children live(s).

*** Information may be submitted by mail and/or by e-mail. Please make note on the application if additional information will be sent separately. Supplemental information that cannot easily be scanned and e-mailed (such as the tax return, report card or the essay), may be mailed separately to Henrietta West at the address listed on the front page. **Applications will not be considered until all information is received and submitted. This must occur by June 30, 2017.**