

COMPETITIVE EVENT GUIDELINES

for **REACH HIGHER SCHOLARSHIP**

DESCRIPTION

Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) promotes students to stay in school through graduation and works with them to successfully transition from school into employment, post-secondary education, apprenticeship, the military, or wherever their path takes them. This is accomplished, in part, through student involvement in the Montana Career Association (MCA). Each JMG class represents a unique MCA chapter. Each JMG MCA chapter is required to develop a Program of Work, outlining activities the students plan to accomplish during the school year. Each JMG chapter will develop their Program of Work activities in the following areas: **Leadership Development, Career Preparation, Civic Responsibility, and Social Awareness.**

PURPOSE

The Reach Higher Scholarship provides JMG students an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment and connection to their communities through an essay outlining employability skills, leadership development, social and civic responsibility, career awareness, and post-secondary plans.

ELIGIBILITY

JMG chapters, with an established MCA, and up-to-date Jobs for America's Graduates eNDMS roster as verified by JMG state staff.

ENTRIES

12th grade current/former JMG students only. No chapter entry limits.

OBSERVERS

There are no observers for this event

COMPETITIVE EVENT TIMELINE

Reach Higher scholarship submissions will be post marked on or before the established deadline, early April. Date will be set and communicated to Career Specialists each year. Reach Higher scholarship submissions will be distributed to judges approximately one week after being received in the JMG state office. Reach Higher scholarship judges will have 10 business days to score essays.

EVENT RULES

1. The Reach Higher scholarship will be for seniors who are either a current or past members of JMG.
2. The Reach Higher scholarship is open to those seniors that meet the following criteria, as verified by high school transcripts:

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- a. Senior level graduating in current school year
- b. A 2.0 minimum GPA for the current year
- c. Current/past enrollment in JMG
3. Include two letters of recommendation
 - a. One letter of recommendation must be from JMG Career Specialist
4. Include an essay, which will be a maximum of two pages, 1-inch margins, in 12 point font.
5. The Reach Higher Scholarship essay must address the following five sections:
 - 1) How have you benefitted from your involvement in JMG?
 - 2) What has been your community involvement? Volunteer involvement?
 - 3) What leadership roles have you held (including JMG)?
 - 4) What special recognition have you received for schoolwork, employment, or extracurricular activities (including JMG recognition)? Each area will be scored individually.
 - 5) Briefly describe your post-secondary education and career objectives. How did you choose your career goal?
6. Applicants **must** submit **one (1) original and three (3) copies** of their completed application to:

Erica Swanson
Jobs for Montana's Graduates
PO Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624

7. All essays will be judged based on the criteria in the scoring sheet.
8. The "Points Possible" column on the score sheet indicates the maximum number of points available for each section. It is appropriate to record "Points Achieved" in a range from 0 to the maximum number.
9. Judges' decisions are final.

Judge # _____

STUDENT NAME	
SCHOOL NAME	

"POINTS ACHIEVED" CAN BE AWARDED IN A RANGE FROM 0 TO MAXIMUM "POINTS POSSIBLE"	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS ACHIEVED	COMMENTS (Comments are very helpful for students' learning and are highly encouraged)
EVENT QUALIFICATIONS (IF ANY OF THE BELOW MARKED NO, ESSAY IS DISQUALIFIED)			
• Is the Reach Higher Scholarship Application complete?	Y/N		
• High school transcript attached – Must be able to verify senior graduating this year – Must be able to verify 2.0 minimum GPA this year – Must be able to verify enrollment in JMG	Y/N		
• Two letters of recommendation attached – One must be from JMG Career Specialist	Y/N		
• Discretionary/Bonus Points: assigned given the quality of the application and presentation	10 (Bonus)		
REACH HIGHER JMG SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (LIMIT 2 PAGES)			
• Student has quantified his/her involvement in the JMG program and the benefits received	25		
• Student has been actively involved in the community. Student volunteered in the community	25		
• Demonstrates Non-JMG related leadership roles student has held	10		
• Demonstrates JMG leadership roles student has held	20		
• Special recognition student has received for schoolwork	10		
• Special recognition student has received for employment	10		
• Special recognition student has received for extracurricular activities	10		
• Special recognition student has received for JMG	15		
• The student described his/her post-secondary education and career objectives. The student explains how he/she chose his/her career goal	25		
To provide additional comments, please use the back of this page.			



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REACH HIGHER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Student Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: () _____ Current GPA: _____ Years in JMG: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

High School: _____

High School Address: _____

Post-secondary school you plan to attend: _____

Alternative school (if necessary): _____

Career Goal: _____

Reference #1: _____

Reference #1 Phone: () _____

Reference #2: _____

Reference #2 Phone: () _____

(Please attach letters of recommendation from both references)

The information that you provide on this application is subject to verification. Falsifications or misrepresentations will disqualify you from consideration for Reach Higher Scholarship.

With my signature below, I certify that all information on this and all attached pages is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and contains no willful falsifications or misrepresentations.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Career Specialist Signature: _____ Date: _____

