

WASHINGTON STATE **OPPORTUNITY** SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLAR LEAD

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) is seeking current and former Scholar Leads for the 2024 – 2025 academic year to serve as leaders and peer mentors to fellow Scholars in a **Returning Scholar Lead** role. As a Returning Scholar Lead, you'll be responsible for engaging with first- and second-year Scholars to share WSOS and campus-related resources, help them navigate the college environment, and foster a sense of community. You will serve as a peer mentor to a small group of Scholars, typically 14 – 19, who are enrolled at your current or previous school or a nearby college/university.

If you are selected for and accept this opportunity but later decide not to continue in the Scholar Lead role, your status as a recipient of the scholarship will NOT be impacted as long as you fulfill [the requirements to maintain your scholarship eligibility](#).

Benefits

- A **\$2,160** stipend divided into three equal payments throughout the academic year
- Development of leadership skills that are valuable and applicable across many sectors, such as professional communication, event planning, problem-solving, etc.
- Additional professional development and training through Lead-exclusive opportunities
- Invitations to participate and/or speak at WSOS events or functions, such as WSOS's annual fundraising campaign event Opportunity Talks (OTalks), other events with partners, corporations, legislators, etc., or virtual Professional Development Trainings for first-year Scholar Leads
- Opportunities to provide feedback to WSOS staff about programming for Scholars

Qualifications

- Be a current fourth- or fifth-year Scholar OR have recently graduated (during or after fall 2023)
- Previously served as a Scholar Lead for at least one full prior academic year AND completed the entire year of service (did not take a deferment, resign from the role, or have the offer rescinded)
- Submit/have submitted a WSOS Award Increase Request by June 28, 2024, which may be earlier or later than the deadline listed in your [Scholar Portal](#)
- Legally authorized to work in the United States
- Reside in Washington State through the 2024 – 2025 academic year
- Access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone to connect with Scholars via email, text, phone call, or virtual communication via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangout/Duo, Microsoft Teams, etc.
- Access to reliable Internet
- Strong communication skills that include but are not limited to active listening and written and verbal communication

- ❑ Strong organizational and time management skills that include but are not limited to scheduling meetings, prioritizing multiple tasks, and following through on assignments
- ❑ Basic knowledge about campus resources and opportunities

Key Competencies for Success

- Ability to thoughtfully consider, understand, and embrace diverse perspectives and backgrounds
- Ability to develop and maintain positive relationships
- Ability to proactively seek guidance or support when experiencing challenges or barriers
- Ability to share information about WSOS resources and processes
- Ability to refer or elevate complex questions or unique circumstances to WSOS staff
- Ability to serve as a leader to peers
- Ability to serve as a positive role model for Scholar Leads

Key Responsibilities

- Complete mandatory onboarding and training by August 4, 2024
- Attend and participate in required Scholar Lead events
- Complete several tasks and outreach via voice or video call, text, or email to Scholars by specific deadlines
- Host virtual or in-person community-building events for Scholars
- Address questions or concerns from Scholars, either by answering them directly, sharing relevant resources, or referring them to WSOS staff
- Complete additional administrative tasks to support the delivery of WSOS programs as needed

Compensation information

The \$2,160 stipend for the academic year is not available for tax credit and is not a wage or salary since Scholar Leads are independent contractors and technically NOT employees of WSOS.

You will need to complete a W9 form and will be considered “self-employed,” so taxes owed will not be withheld from the stipend. You will receive a 1099-MISC form in January 2025 and January 2026 and will need to file a tax return and pay any taxes owed. While we cannot provide tax information or advice, we strongly encourage you to seek additional resources as needed.

The stipend will be divided into three equal payments – you’ll receive the first payment in November 2024, the second in February 2025, and the final payment in May 2025, pending satisfactory completion of tasks.