



## **Compass Homeschool Classes**

Carson Scholars Fund  
2017 School Selection

### **CARSON SCHOLARS FUND**

The Carson Scholars Fund was established in 1996 by Dr. Ben Carson. The fund awards 500 scholarships annually and has provided more than 7,300 scholarships since its inception. This scholarship program is unique because it is not limited to high school seniors, and instead is open to students in grades 4 through 11 who “excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities.” The scholarships are for \$1,000 each, and recipients may re-apply in future years.

Each school is allowed to nominate one student each year to be considered in the pool of scholarship candidates from across the county. The standards are very high for alternative education entities, such as homeschool programs, to be recognized as established programs for purposes of nominating a student. In early December 2017, Compass Homeschool Classes was approved by the CSF as a school organization. This allows Compass to select and nominate one student to be considered for an award in 2017-18.

#### **1. SCHOOL LEVEL SELECTION PROCESS**

Compass will select and nominate one student. Being a school-level nominee is not a guarantee of a scholarship award, but instead advances one student to be considered in the national pool where 500 awards will be given. A student’s application to Compass is a guarantee that he/she agrees to complete the application process to the CSF which includes another application and essay, community service details, report card, and a teacher recommendation. The Compass nominee’s application will be due on January 8, 2018. A student should consider the time he/she has available over the winter break to complete the application and should plan ahead on contacting a teacher for a recommendation.

#### **2. QUALIFICATIONS**

The Compass candidate must have been enrolled in a Compass class during the Fall of 2017, first and/or second quarter.

The Compass candidate must be in 4<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Grades shall be defined as the grade level a student would be in if enrolled in a traditional public school by birthdate without grade skipping, repeated grades, or delayed school entry.

The Compass candidate must be legally homeschooled in accordance with the standards of his/her home state or jurisdiction. The candidate will be asked to furnish documentation that he/she is recognized as a homeschooler in good standing.



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### **3. CRITERIA**

Compass candidates will be judged on three aspects. Each aspect will be weighted equally.

- Academic
- Community Service
- Personal Essay

#### **3.1 Academic**

The GPA is an important measure by the CSF organization, therefore the candidate's academic record will also be judged at the school level based using his/her Grade Point Average (GPA) in core, academic courses. The candidate's GPA must be 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale for the current report card. The GPA is for the current term (i.e. Fall 2017); it is not a cumulative GPA that spans multiple years.

A student's GPA must be calculated in strict accordance with the CSF rules. Their system is based on A: 90%-100% (4.0 points); B: 80%-89% (3.0 points), etc. Their system also acknowledges half point escalation for honors level courses and whole point escalation for AP, IB, or college dual enrollment. Only the following subjects can be considered in the calculation of a student's GPA: English/Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Elective classes cannot be counted into the GPA calculation. Please see the complete CSF document entitled, "GPA Calculations Rules and Policies" for more details.

<http://carsonscholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/GPA-Calculation-Rules-and-Policies.pdf>

For homeschooled students who do not regularly receive report cards, a Compass template is furnished for your use. On this report card, list only fall 2017 classes taken at Compass, through another homeschool program, online courses, dual enrollment classes, or at home. For purposes of the national nomination, the report card must name your school as Compass Homeschool Classes regardless of the number of classes you took at Compass. A transcript cannot be submitted in place of a Report Card.

#### **3.2 Community Service**

The CSF emphasizes humanitarian work and involvement in community service as criteria for their awards. On the Compass application, candidates are asked to describe their community involvement and volunteer work. The candidate should only include activities that he/she participated in during 2017. Prior year's volunteer work will not be considered. The community service explanation must be written in complete sentences.



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### 3.3 Personal Essay

1. Essay should be between 500-1000 words.
2. Essay must be type-written for grades 6-11 (handwritten will be accepted for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade).
3. Essay must be student's own, original work.
4. For anonymous judging of written submittals, the student's name should not be included on the essay page. The essay must be accompanied by the student information form which will have the student's name.
5. The Carson Scholar Fund provides the following criteria for essays used in the nominee selection process:
  - a) Content: An essay with ample information, including supporting details.
  - b) Organization: An organized essay with a well-developed beginning, middle and end.
  - c) Style: Interesting, varied, imaginative and age-appropriate vocabulary.
  - d) Mechanics and Usage: Correct punctuation, capitalization, spelling and paragraph distinction.
  - e) Focus: Appropriate information to make the reader clearly understand the ideas being presented

### 4. KEY DATES

- Compass student applications deadline: Friday, December 15, 2017
- Compass nomination due to CSF: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
- Compass nominee application deadline: Monday, January 8, 2018
- Compass administrator verification of application: Friday, January 12, 2018

### 5. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed Application (including GPA and Community Service Statement)
- Personal Essay
- Report Card (with GPA calculation). Sample format furnished as fillable pdf.
- County Homeschool Letter (acknowledging 2017 status as a homeschooled student)



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Office use only:  
Application Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County Where Homeschooled: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Endorsement:

I affirm that all information is correct, that my child's GPA has been calculated in accordance with the Carson Scholar's Fund standards and is based on appropriately assigned grades. I further attest that the Personal Essay and Community Service Statement are my child's original work.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





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### 2017 Personal Essay

Albert Einstein was a renowned twentieth century mathematician and physicist who developed landmark theories and transformed modern views on physics. Einstein was not, however, a great student and was known to skip formal classes so he could read and study independently. Were he alive today, Einstein might have excelled as a home schooled student! Throughout his life, Einstein delivered thought-provoking quotes on the importance of curiosity, imagination, perseverance, play, and nature in life and in education. Taking inspiration from Einstein's quotes below, ***write an essay on how curiosity, imagination, perseverance, play, or nature, or a combination of these, play a significant role in your home education. Include personal examples or anecdotes that demonstrate how these principles have guided or influenced your homeschooling.***

#### Curiosity:

- "Curiosity is a delicate little plant that, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom."
- "It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education."
- "The important thing is not to stop questioning."

#### Imagination:

- "The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination."
- "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

#### Perseverance:

- "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."
- "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

#### Play:

- "Play is the highest form of research."

#### Nature:

- "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."
- "Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift."