



## 2022 Peer-To-Peer Students Scholarship Application

The Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington

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**Essay question:** The lessons we take from obstacles can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? (min. 500 words)

I'm so glad to finish 11th grade because it was the most difficult year to go through. The SAT and AP exams were hard to overcome; however, my biggest challenge was something I had never done before in my life. During this spring, my US history teacher introduced the class to an opportunity that was given to high school juniors. She announced the Margaret C. Peck Youth internship program is looking to find interns who can work at the Sully Historic Site. The interns are paid to work by giving tours of a historic house, running the gift shop, and managing the Sully site. This was a perfect way to spend my summer by gaining work experience and earning money. However, the spots for the programs were very limited and competitiveness was high. They only offered the Sully Internship to three people out of the five Fairfax high schools. In addition, the application required a lot of components such as the application form, essay, two teacher recommendation letters, and an interview. I never had an interview let alone a job, so I was hesitant on applying. I decided to apply anyway because I had nothing to lose and didn't want to regret it in the future. I worked hard for the next few weeks to earn a position in the program. I researched the Sully historic site on their official website and watched Youtube videos while jotting down notes from practice interviews. I even searched up the "most asked interview questions" to practice answering potential future questions. Before the day of the interview, I prepared appropriate attire clothing and printed two resumes that were optional to bring, but believed would be helpful for the interviewers. Finally, the day of the interview came and I was terrified of what the interviewers might think about me; however, I have put in all my effort for this opportunity and I won't let it go to waste. I arrived at the historic site and was greeted by two interviewers, Tammy and Carla, who sat me down for the interview. I handed them both my resume and they began by asking the first interview question. Tammy started off by asking, "How did you hear about this internship opportunity?" I responded to her while trying to maintain full eye contact and posture. I was asked about my skills, strengths, and characteristics and how I would use those to apply to the job. Carla asked me one final question before ending the interview. She asked, "Why do you wanna apply for the internship?" I had practiced this question, so I replied confidently. " I wanted to apply for this internship because I believe this is a great opportunity to enhance my communication and customer skills with people of all ages. I can learn not only historical facts about my home state, but also build relationships as well." After the final question, they concluded the interview and said I did a terrific job despite it being my first interview. We said our goodbyes and Carla said that she would contact me back if any further notice. I was very relieved that it was over and even though I made some mistakes a couple of times, I was proud of what I was able to accomplish. Over the next week, I didn't receive notice until a week later from an email Tammy sent. It stated, "Congratulations, we believe you are a perfect fit for the internship

and are able to start working for us during the summer." I was stunned. I just couldn't believe I got chosen, but now I'm going to work at Sully this summer and can't wait to get started. People would have thought applying would be a great waste of time because of the assumption of not getting chosen. However, I would have applied despite the result because I felt I had gained so much from this experience. I was able to get an insight into what's it like to find a real job such as editing my resume or practicing for the interview. These are life skills needed to be able to get hired into future occupations. Other than life skills, I believe I have become a more confident, knowledgeable person and have seen my growth compared to the past. These challenges would shape me into the resilient person I am today and increase my willingness to go forward. By using the P2P program, I hope my experience can encourage my buddies to become fearless when facing their obstacles. I will still have challenges in the future, however, I'm ready to conquer whatever comes my way.

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