



2015 Model NATO Challenge Scholarship Program

Norfolk NATO Festival (formerly Norfolk’s International Azalea Festival) is a non-profit organization founded in 1953, just one year after the establishment of NATO's Allied Command Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia. In that year, the citizens of Norfolk organized a salute to these allied forces in order to create new friendships, provide a basis for cultural exchange, pursue new lines of trade between Norfolk and the world, and to recognize NATO’s role in maintaining peace and stability in the world.

Working in cooperation with Norfolk’s NATO Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation and Norfolk Public Schools, the Festival started the Model NATO Challenge in 2007 to provide a unique opportunity for high school juniors and seniors interested in the advancement of international studies. Students who are selected to participate in the Challenge serve as Student Diplomats in a role-playing exercise which simulates real world issues faced by today’s NATO Alliance. 28 students and 6 alternates will be chosen to participate and assigned to represent one (1) of the 28 NATO member nations. Each student will work with a mentor who is an officer at NATO – ACT, from the student’s assigned nation.

Scholarship Description: This scholarship program is designed to recognize the achievement of those Student Diplomats who have demonstrated excellence in the execution of their assigned responsibilities. Scholarships are paid directly to the college or university of the winning students’ choice. 6 scholarships will be awarded at 3 levels: one at \$1,500, three at \$1,000, and two at \$500. Scholarships are non-renewable.

Where/When: Thursday, March 19, 2015
Old Dominion University

Eligibility: Applicants must be: 1) enrolled high school juniors or seniors in good standing as a full-time student with intentions of continuing to college or university; 2) U.S. citizens; and 3) 2014 Model NATO Challenge Scholarship winners are not eligible to apply. **Applicants must submit an essay along with the completed application by Monday, December 8, 2014 (see page 4) in order to be considered for a scholarship.** Materials received after the deadline will not be considered.

Criteria: Selected participants will be evaluated based upon following:

Application – ability to follow instructions and complete application	10%
Essay – originality, organization of ideas and accuracy of facts (see attached rubric)	30%
Model NATO Challenge – performance during simulation (rubric will be provided)	60%

Model NATO Challenge Scholarship Application

Please include the following with your application:

- 600-750 word essay that clearly demonstrates your level of knowledge about NATO, its member nations, its purpose and/or its stand on issues or current events (see page 4).
- A letter of recommendation from school guidance counselor or teacher

****Please provide your best email address, which you check frequently.*

Student Name:	High School:	Graduation Year:
Address:	***Student Email address:	
City: Zip Code:	Student Phone:	
NATO Country Interested in Representing (suggest 3) 1. 2. 3.	Grade Point Average:	
Parent or Guardian Name:	Relationship to Applicant:	
Address:	Parent or Guardian Email Address:	
Parent or Guardian Best Contact Phone:		
Teacher Sponsor Name and Phone:	Teacher Sponsor Email:	

As an applicant for Norfolk NATO Festival's scholarship opportunity, I have read and understand the requirements. On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid on the essay portion of this application and I will abide by the rules of the simulation.

Signature of Student Applicant	Date
--------------------------------	------

Signature of Parent or Guardian	Date
---------------------------------	------

Postmark Deadline: Monday, December 8, 2014. Send completed application to: Norfolk NATO Festival, Attention: Director, 440 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510. The Norfolk NATO Festival reserves the right to amend this application without notice; however, any amendments shall not prejudice current applicants who may receive a scholarship under this program based on the criteria given in this announcement. Email sarah.jordan@natofestival.org with questions.

Model NATO Challenge Applicant Requirements

Essay

Applicants must submit an essay by **Monday, December 8, 2014** along with the application in order to be considered for a scholarship. Materials received after the deadline will not be considered.

The following essay rubric must be followed in order for applicants to be eligible for a scholarship:

Formatting

- 600-750 words
- Double spaced, paragraph format, 1 inch margin per page, Arial 10pt or Times New Roman 12pt
- Grammatically correct with references cited
- Indicate on the first page of the essay which Topic Option # you have chosen to write about
- Please DO NOT include your name or school on your essay; you will be assigned a number to use instead

Content

- Essay should be focused, reflect critical thinking, and include research and other details that support the chosen essay topic
- Essay should be grammatically correct and contain a bibliography and references
- Work must be independent. See honor statement on page 2 of application which must be signed.

Topic Options:

- Option 1: What are the current security threats faced by NATO Members Countries? How have these threats changed during recent years? How can NATO combat these threats?
- Option 2: How has the present global economy affected NATO's resources and activities? How has NATO ensured operational readiness during this economic challenge? As the world economy improves, where does defense spending currently rank in the national priorities of NATO Member Countries? Where should defense spending rank in the future and why?
- Option 3: Choose two former Warsaw Pact Member Nations and explain how the addition of these nations to NATO has affected 1) European Security, 2) Global Security and 3) the economies of the chosen Warsaw Pact Members.
- Option 4: What kind of partnerships does NATO currently engage in? Explain different initiatives and relationships with the international community and how the recent NATO Summit in Wales has focused on these initiatives. How can these initiatives be enhanced in the future?

Preparation for Model NATO Challenge

The Model NATO Challenge is an exciting simulation modeled on the North Atlantic Council (NATO's highest decision-making body), where Student Diplomats are confronted, through a crisis scenario, with real-life challenges to the Alliance. While representing the interests of their assigned Country, Student Diplomats will be asked to work with each other in order to reach consensus on a specific course of action to address the crisis scenario. Student Diplomats will need to prepare in advance of the exercise by:

- Engaging in independent study to understand the nation he/she has been selected to represent;
- Contacting their mentor to discuss their assigned nation's interests via email or phone at least twice;
- Completing the Model NATO Online Course modules – deadline requirements to be announced.

Diplomats will receive information regarding Model NATO Challenge requirements and will have the opportunity to meet their mentor at the Program Orientation meeting.

Important Dates and Required Events

Monday, December 8, 2014	Application Deadline (must include essay)
Friday, January 16, 2015	Student Notification of Acceptance
*Wednesday, February 4, 2015	Program Orientation – Virginia Arts Festival 440 Bank St, Norfolk, VA 23510
*Weeks prior to March 19, 2015	Field Trip to ACT NATO HQ – <i>exact date to be determined</i>
*Thursday, March 19, 2015	Model NATO Challenge Old Dominion University
Friday, April 3, 2015	Scholarship Award Notification
April 24 – 25, 2015	Norfolk NATO Festival Weekend
*Friday, April 24, 2015	Flag Raising Ceremony & Introduction of Student Diplomats at the Virginia International Tattoo
*Saturday, April 25, 2015	Participation of Student Diplomats in the 62 nd Annual Parade of Nations and NATOFest

****Denotes required events to be attended by Student Diplomats - Details will be provided at the Program Orientation.***

Requirements for Scholarship winners

- Must be enrolled at the college or university of his/her choice within 24 months from being awarded the scholarship.
- Award is a one-time occurrence. Past Model NATO Challenge scholarship winners are ineligible to receive another scholarship.
- If a winner does not attend a college or university within 24 months of award notification, the student will forfeit the scholarship.
- Scholarships are sent directly to the college or university to pay for tuition only; the Festival does not award cash directly to students.
- Winners are required to complete the scholarship transmittal form, including their university student ID number and address for the university student finance office no later than May 31, 2015. Failure to submit a completed form may result in the forfeiture of the scholarship.

Rubric for Student Diplomat Applications - Essay portion - 2014 Model NATO Challenge

	Limited Proficiency- None	Some Proficiency	Proficiency	High Proficiency	Rating
	0-1 points	2 points	3 points	4-5 points	0-5
Thesis/Focus, Originality	Thesis is missing.	Thesis may be obvious or unimaginative.	Thesis is somewhat original.	Develops a fresh insight that challenges the reader's thinking.	
Thesis/Focus, Clarity	Reader cannot determine thesis & purpose or Thesis has no relation to the writing task.	Thesis and purpose are somewhat vague or Thesis is only loosely related to the writing task.	Thesis and purpose are fairly clear and match the writing task.	Thesis and purpose are clear to the reader; closely match the writing task.	
Organization	Unclear organization or Organization plan is inappropriate to thesis. No transitions.	Some signs of logical organization. May have abrupt or illogical shifts and ineffective flow of ideas.	Organization supports thesis and purpose. Transitions are mostly appropriate. Sequence of ideas could be improved.	Fully and imaginatively supports thesis and purpose. Sequence of ideas is effective. Transitions are effective.	
Support/ Reasoning- Ideas and Details	Offers simplistic, underdeveloped, or cryptic support for ideas. Inappropriate or off-topic generalizations, faulty assumptions, errors in fact.	Offers somewhat obvious support that may be too broad. Details are too general, not interpreted, irrelevant to thesis or inappropriately repetitive.	Offers solid but less original reasoning. Assumptions are not always recognized or made explicit. Contains some appropriate details or examples.	Substantial, logical, and concrete development of ideas. Assumptions are made explicit. Details are germane, original and convincingly interpreted.	
Use of Sources and Documentation	Neglects important sources. Overuse of quotations or paraphrase to substitute writer's own ideas.	Uses relevant sources, but lacks a variety of sources and/or skillful combination of sources. Quotations and paraphrases may be too long and/or inconsistently referenced.	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own ideas. Does not over use quotes.	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of ideas. Combines material from a variety of sources, including personal observation, scientific data, and authoritative testimony. Does not over use quotes.	
Grammar/ Spelling/Usage/Punctuation	Mechanical and usage errors so severe that writer's ideas are hidden	Repeated weaknesses in mechanics and usage. Punctuation flaws.	Mechanical and usage errors that do not interfere with meaning.	Essentially error free. Evidence of superior control of diction.	
Presentation	Essay is untidy and does not follow basic formatting rules (e.g., margins, headers, and sub headers).	Essay looks fairly neat but violates some formatting rules.	Essay looks neat but violates one or two formatting rules.	Essay looks neat, crisp, and professional.	