

ESSAY #1 (REQUIRED)

Describe your personal connection to your art form and how you use it as a form of self-expression. As an artist, what perspectives or values shape your work? In what ways has your art helped you overcome challenges or grow as a young adult? Limit your response to 500 words or less.

ESSAY #2 (REQUIRED)

Describe who or what inspires you as an artist. How does this inspiration show up in your art today? Limit your response to 500 words or less.

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I did not use artificial intelligence (AI) or any other person to write, generate, revise, enhance, or modify my essays. If this application leads to an award, I understand that false or misleading information in my application may result in my disqualification. (Your signature must be hand-written.)			
Signature		Date	
CERTIFYING OFFICIAL SIGNATURE			
Only one (1) Arts student applicant will be accepted from each school. Principals are asked to nominate one outstanding senior to be considered for this honor. (Principals may also nominate one General student and one CTE student. A student may only be nominated for one component.) By signing below, I acknowledge that the named applicant is the one and only Arts student that this school has nominated for the Presidential Scholars Arts component and has not been nominated for any other USPSP component. Hand-written or electronic signature is required.			
Principal Signature		Date	Principal phone
Principal Name		Principal email	

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST
Use the checklist below to ensure your application package is complete: ___ Application is typed ___ Application is 100% complete and accurate (Resumes are not accepted.) ___ Application includes student signature (This must be hand-written.) ___ Application includes certifying official (principal) signature (Hand-written or electronic signature is required.) ___ Application essays are typed and are limited to 500 words each ___ Application submission includes unofficial transcript ___ Application has been scanned as ONE complete PDF file
APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES
Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 2, 2026. Applications must be submitted electronically. This is a secure submission that requires scanning the complete application with valid signatures. To submit, follow the steps below. 1. Scan the application and the transcript into a single PDF file. (If the file is not submitted in PDF format, the application will not be reviewed) . File Name: Include the first name, last name and arts (ex: john_doe_arts.pdf). . Go to bit.ly/USPSP-Arts 4. Enter student's first name, last name, email address, and High School CEEB Code. . Upload the application file. . Click the final arrow. Applications received after 5:00 p.m. (Central) on Friday, October 2, 2026 will not be considered.

Instructions for completing the Artistic Achievement Section

- Select one discipline and one category. (All awards submitted must align with the selected discipline and category.)
- Awards must have been earned by the student as an individual. (Group, team, ensemble or collaborative awards are not eligible.)
- Submit only awards earned during high school.
- Awards must be from recognized competitions, contests, or programs.

Eligible Artistic Disciplines and Categories:

Discipline	Category
Dance (all forms)	Choreography Performance (Solo)
Literary Arts/Writing	Fiction Nonfiction Poetry Play, script, or spoken word (choose one)
Music (all genres)	Composition Instrumental (Solo) Vocal (Solo)
Theatre	Spoken only (Monologue) Music theatre (Solo)
Visual Arts	Painting Drawing Sculpture Printmaking Film or Video Production (choose one: Narrative film, Documentary, Animation, Short-form video) Digital or mixed media (choose one) Photography Design (choose one: Architectural, Product, Website/UI/UX, Graphic or Fashion)

Example:

Sponsoring Organization	Competition Category	Award Name	Competition Level	Grade Level when award was Earned
SkillsUSA	Video Production	Outstanding Performer Award	State	Freshman
YoungArts	Dance	Winner with distinction	National	Sophomore
UIL	One-Act Play	Excellence in Writing	State	Junior