

FACT SHEET
ARTIST MENTOR PROGRAM

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

The Five Wings Arts Council, with funding from the Minnesota State Legislature, is once again able to offer Artist Mentor Scholarships to our area high school students. The program is designed to meet the needs of rural high school students in grades 9-12 who demonstrate high motivation to work in the arts. The program will serve to supplement the arts education in our region's schools by providing a number of students with the opportunity to study their chosen field of art with a regional practicing artist. Our primary interest is the enhancement of the student's artistic creativity and skill as well as personal growth through exposing students to diverse artistic experiences and viewpoints.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

Approximately ten students (currently in grades 9-12) who are enrolled in an independent school district within the counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena will be awarded scholarships on the basis of motivation, commitment, creativity, proficiency, and potential for artistic development. The selection process will be conducted in the fall of each year. Each selected student will then be matched with a qualified mentor who will establish a study schedule which must include a minimum of 20 contact hours within one year.

***NOTE:** *The term "arts" is inclusive of many disciplines, including visual arts, dance, creative writing, drama, music, video, etc.*

THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Application packets will be made available to students from their high school Art, Music and English instructors in September. **Students must then mail the completed application to the Five Wings Arts Council, 200 First St. NE., Staples, MN 56479 postmarked no later than October 15th.**

A review panel will then review the application materials and interview each student if necessary. The panel will consist of artists, arts teachers, and/or knowledgeable consumers of the arts who represent a balance of arts disciplines.

CRITERIA

Students will be judged on creative potential, accomplishments the student has made in the art form, maturity, and personal motivation. Application and selection of students will be limited to students currently in grades 9-12 at the present time.

MENTOR SELECTION

After students have been selected, the Five Wings Arts Program will seek and screen mentors who match the needs of the selected students. Mentors will be selected on the basis of their professionalism and their ability to work with high school age students. In addition, the Five Wings Arts Council will seek to choose mentors from a geographical area as near as possible to the student's home. It will then be the responsibility of the mentor, student, and parent(s) to establish a satisfactory study schedule.

The Artist/Mentor Program is offered in with funding through the Minnesota State Legislature. Please call the Five Wings Arts Council at 218/894-5485 or e-mail - mturner@ncscmn.org if you have any questions.

*Mark Turner, Director
Five Wings Arts Council
Artist Mentor Program*

ARTIST MENTOR PROGRAM Application Guidelines

I. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Students currently in **grades 9-12** attending one of the public or private schools in the five counties of the Five Wings Arts Council area are eligible to apply. The five counties include: **Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena**. Students with little or no previous formal arts training as well as students with extensive arts backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Students may apply to study any one of the following arts disciplines: **Literary Arts, Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, Media Arts, and Dance**. Students who have received an Artist Mentor Award in the past are eligible to apply for a second award. A student who has received two awards may not apply a third time.

II. HOW TO APPLY

A. You must **mail a completed Student Application Form and an Artistic Statement to the Five Wings Arts Council postmarked no later than October 15th**. Application packets can be obtained from your high school Art, Music or English instructors.

1. **Application Form:** Application forms are included with these Guidelines. Please complete Sections A, B and C. Section C must be signed and dated by your parent or guardian.
2. **Letter of Recommendation:** The letter must be from someone other than a relative and be someone who has knowledge of the student's artistic ability and/or aptitude. For example, a teacher, counselor, community choir director, other artist, etc.
3. **Artistic Statement:** This statement must consist of one typed, double-spaced page which responds to all four questions listed below. Please be sure to put your name at the top of the Artistic Statement page.
 - a) *What do you expect to learn from a mentor that you are not learning now?*
 - b) *List some of the most challenging things that you have done with your art and describe how they were challenging to you.*
 - c) *As an artist, what are your strongest and weakest areas?*
 - d) *Discuss a professional artist (past or present) whose work you especially admire. Explain why.*

If you have any questions about the application process please contact the Five Wings Arts Council at 218-894-5485 or e-mail: mturner@ncscmn.org.

**FIVE WINGS ARTS COUNCIL
ARTIST MENTOR PROGRAM
Application Form**

SECTION A: Student data

Student's Name: _____

Home Phone _____

Address/Zip: _____

Your School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____

Is there an artist with whom you would like to study? If so, please give the artist's name, address, and phone number.

Artist's Name: _____

Address/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

NOTE: *You should not be overly concerned if your answers to the application questions refer to one type of art work, while you wish to study another type. For example...perhaps you want to learn watercolor, but you've only worked with pen and ink; or you want to write poetry, but have only written short stories. This will be taken into consideration during the review process.*

SECTION B: Application Questionnaire

1. Describe the art form you wish to study and what aspect of this art form you want to focus on with a mentor.
2. What efforts have you made on your own to study this art form? For example, a student who is interested in creative writing should already be actively writing poems or short stories, or keeping a journal. A student interested in theatre should have some experiences in acting, directing, etc.
3. How much time do you spend now on this art form?
____ Hours per Day ____ Hours per Week
4. A mentorship is an intense learning experience. You will be spending a minimum of three hours or more per week in practice at home. Explain your willingness to commit this amount of time to the Artist Mentor Program.
5. List the other significant activities you will participate in between now and next summer. Please indicate how much time you will spend on each (for example... employment, 4-H, summer vacation, extra-curricular activities, etc.).

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Hours Per Week</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____

Are you willing to temporarily drop your involvement with some of these activities and make your Artist Mentor study a priority? Which ones? Explain your decision. How will you work around your other commitments?

6. List the equipment or materials you will need to study your art form (for example...camera and photography supplies, musical instrument and music, painting supplies, etc.).

Do you have access to the equipment or materials now? _____
If not, how will you obtain these items?

7. Attach a **Letter of Recommendation** to this application form. The letter must be from someone other than a relative and be someone who has knowledge of the student's artistic ability and/or aptitude. For example, a teacher, counselor, community choir director, other artist, etc.
8. Attach your **Artistic Statement** to this application form. The statement should respond to all four questions listed below and should consist of **one typed, double spaced page**.
 - A) *What do you expect to learn from a mentor that you are not learning now?*
 - B) *List some of the most challenging things you have done with your art form and explain how they were challenging to you.*
 - C) *As an artist, what are your strongest and weakest areas?*
 - D) *Discuss a professional artist (past or present) whose work you especially admire. Explain why.*
9. Be sure your parent(s) or guardian(s) sign and date this form. Mail form with your "Artistic Statement" attached and samples of your writing (if you are a literary artist), to Five Wings Arts, 200 First St. NE, Staples, MN 56479 **postmarked no later than October 15th**.

SECTION C: Parental Agreement

To: PARENTS and GUARDIANS...Please READ and SIGN Below

The success of your son's or daughter's mentorship depends, in part, on your support. The total value of each mentorship award is over \$500.00. The award covers payment to the mentor, a possible field trip, and all administrative costs of the program. By signing below, you agree to provide the following:

1. **Materials** necessary to the study, such as paints, canvas, dance shoes, sheet music, camera equipment, musical instrument(s), etc. The student has listed some items needed in Section B, Item 6.
2. **Transportation** to and from meetings with the advisor and the place where lessons will take place. Lessons are usually at the mentor's studio or home. The round trip for lessons has ranged anywhere from 5 to 150 miles. The average has been 50 miles round trip. We do try to minimize the distance when selecting mentors. A lesson schedule will be established by the student's advisor, the mentor, the student, and the parent(s).
3. **Support and encouragement** to practice a minimum of three hours per week at home. Past experience has shown that the Artist Mentor students who make the most of the program receive positive support and encouragement at home.

PARENTAL AGREEMENT

As parent or guardian for:

(Student's Name)

I certify that I have read the information in this application and that I will provide:

1. The materials necessary for the art form studied.
2. Transportation to and from lessons, up to a maximum of _____ miles, round trip.
3. Support and encouragement to my son/daughter to practice a minimum of three hours per week at home.

Signature

Date

Mail to: Five Wings Arts Council, 200 First St. NE, Staples, MN 56479.