

2025 Kim Hill Scholarship Rubric

Rating Scale Key

5: Exceptional demonstration
4: Very good demonstration
3: Good demonstration

2: Fair demonstration
1: Poor demonstration
0: No demonstration

	0-1 Points	2-3 Points	4-5 Points
Connection to Philadelphia Region	(1 point) The applicant either (A) lives in or (B) was treated in the Philadelphia Region; (C) stayed at a local RMHC Houses, or (D) attended Ronald McDonald Camp		
Activities	The applicant shared few or no activities, nor did they mention how their diagnosis impacted this participation or future plans. The selection committee had an unclear understanding of the applicant's interests, involvement, and commitment.	The applicant shared two or more activities they have been involved in, with vague descriptions of their length of participation or other descriptors. There was some demonstration of leadership or impact. If mentioned, they described how their diagnosis affected their participation but didn't discuss future plans. The selection committee gained a general sense for applicant's interests, involvement, and commitment.	The applicant shared multiple activities they have been involved in, including the length of time of their participation and other descriptors. They have demonstrated that their involvement has made an impact through leadership or significant contributions. If diagnosis has impacted this, they have explained reasonable plans for participation in the future. The selection committee gained a clear understanding of the applicant's interests, involvement, and commitment.
Proudest Moment	The applicant did not provide a clear description of a moment, situation, or accomplishment, or their response lacks relevance to the question. Little to no insight into their values, character, or effort is conveyed, leaving the selection committee unable to assess their drive or initiative .	The applicant described a moment, situation, or accomplishment, but the explanation is vague, lacks personal significance, or provides limited insight into their values, character, or resilience. The response offers some indication of drive, initiative, or effort but leaves the selection committee wanting more clarity or detail to fully understand its importance.	The applicant provided a meaningful and detailed description of a single moment, situation, or accomplishment they are most proud of, clearly explaining why it stands out and its personal significance. Their response conveys strong self-awareness and insight into their values, character, and resilience. The selection committee gains a clear and compelling sense of their drive, initiative, or dedicated effort, with the depth and specificity needed to understand the broader impact of the accomplishment.
Reference Letters	The reference letter offers little to no meaningful information about the applicant's character, experiences, or	The reference letter provides some insight into the applicant's character and accomplishments but lacks depth or	The reference letter provides a detailed and compelling account of the applicant's character, including clear examples of their strengths,

	potential. It lacks specific examples of hurdles they have overcome, their capacity for growth, or contributions to the world around them. As a result, the letter provides minimal value to the selection committee in understanding the applicant's qualifications or impact.	specificity. While the recommender mentions general observations about the applicant, such as their resilience, growth, or contributions, the examples provided are either vague or limited in detail. The letter gives the selection committee a basic understanding of the applicant but falls short of fully showcasing their potential and impact.	values, and resilience. The recommender highlights specific hurdles the applicant has overcome and offers meaningful insights into their capacity for growth and their potential contributions to the world around them. The letter paints a vivid and supportive picture of the applicant , leaving the selection committee with a strong sense of their abilities and future impact.
Personal Essay	The applicant does not clearly state their educational and personal goals for the future or describe their desired impact. Their ambition, drive, passion and commitment are unclear to the selection committee, in part because they do not indicate how their post-secondary program or personal qualities support their path.	The applicant generally states their educational and personal goals for the future and a developing sense on their desired impact in the world. They demonstrate some ambition, drive and/or passion, but may not indicate how their post-secondary program or personal qualities support their path. Their commitment to achieving their goals may also be somewhat unclear.	The applicant clearly states and describes their educational and personal goals for the future with an articulate statement on their desired impact in the world . They demonstrate obvious ambition, drive and/or passion. They clarify how their post-secondary program supports their path, describes multiple personal qualities that will help them reach their goals, and shows genuine commitment to achieving them.
Financial Need	The applicant's guardian income levels demonstrate a minimal need for financial assistance to access post-secondary education.	The applicant's guardian income levels demonstrate a moderate need for financial assistance to access postsecondary education.	The applicant's guardian income levels demonstrate a heavy need for financial assistance to access post-secondary education.
Special Financial Consideration	(1 point) The applicant or a third-party letter listed a change in their family's situation that will have a significant negative financial impact AND/OR shared a significant example of financial need .		
Overall Sense of Application	The application did not create a clear picture of the applicant or their future goals. The level of effort in creating the application appeared minimal, leaving the selection committee unable to make an informed decision.	The application was good but left more to be desired . The selection committee wished to know more about the applicant. The applicant adequately described themselves and provided a general sense of their future plans and potential.	The application was compelling and, as a whole, left no question as to who the applicant is as a person and scholar . The applicant richly described themselves, demonstrating a clear vision for their continued impact and potential.