

Interview Tips:

If you are invited to an interview for a scholarship, here are some tips for your interview and preparation.

- Try to relax...smile, engage with the panel...be personable
- Don't rush - people have a tendency to rush when they are nervous...try to slow down
- Take time to process the question and organize your answer before you start to talk. It is okay to ask to repeat the question or parts of the question if needed
- Practice and prepare beforehand as much as you can! There are lots of good practice questions online ('scholarship interview questions').
- Have answers ready for all types of questions/topics you can think of (eg. overcoming adversity, conflict/challenges, characteristics of a leader, you as a leader, future goals, etc. - want to have specific examples for each). Try to have different examples that showcase different parts of your experience/talents rather than discussing the same things for two questions (eg. academics, athletics, arts, Link Crew, community volunteering) - want to really show the diversity of your skills, characteristics, and experiences
- When answering questions it works well to go 'general to specific' - start with the big picture of your answer and then narrow it down finishing with a full explanation of a specific example
- Be sure to explain any events/organizations/leadership groups you are referring to (assume they don't know)
- Assume that they do not know your application and important parts of it as they may have read it awhile back and will likely forget parts of it - is important to still hit on those key achievements/contributions in your interview, and then expand on your explanation
- Emphasize leadership, initiative, and commitment - use key words (eg. led, facilitated, initiated, organized, ran etc.)
- Be true to yourself - let the real you shine through- want to build a connection with the panel - tell your story!
- They don't expect that everything you have ever done went perfectly, or that you are perfect - they want to hear that you are human and that you have grown and learned from your experiences