Dear Letter of Recommendation Writers:

Thank you for agreeing to provide me with a letter of recommendation. I am applying for the Goldwater Scholarship, a prestigious scholarship for undergraduate STEM students. Below are important details and timelines as well as formatting requirements for the recommendation.

**Personal Information:  
Student Name:  
Undergraduate Major(s):**  **Minor(s)/Specialization(s):  
GPA:**

**How you know me/the student:**

**Graduate Study Research Focus:**

**Graduate Study Plan:**

**Future Career Goal:**

**Recommendation deadline:** **November 1**

**Email recommendation to:** [nifs@msu.edu](mailto:nifs@msu.edu)

**About the Goldwater Scholarship:** <https://goldwaterscholarship.gov/>

**Points to Address in Letter:**

* The recommendation needs to be tailored to the Goldwater Scholarship and student
* Please visit this link for details about the recommendation: <https://goldwaterscholarship.gov/letter-writing-guidance-recommenders/>
* Context in which you know the student (e.g., for how long, in what capacity, whether you were the student’s direct supervisor)
* How the student contributed to the work and how important the student’s contribution was
* How independently the student worked or how much guidance was required
* If a team project, understand what fraction of the work was done by the applicant and how significant the student’s contribution was to the success and completion of the project
* If you are a co-author on a publication that will soon be submitted, is submitted, accepted (in press) or published with the Goldwater applicant, what intellectual contribution the applicant made to the manuscript and why the student’s contribution to the overall project and manuscript merited co-authorship
* Insight into what the student already knows and can do
* The student’s originality, intellectual daring, insight, creativity, perseverance, and integrity by describing specific examples of where these characteristics were observed,
* Through a comparison with other students who have gone on to pursue successful research careers, gain an insight into the likelihood that the student will become a successful researcher
* Insight into what drives or motivates the student’s interest in research.

**Formatting Requirement:**

* <https://goldwaterscholarship.gov/letter-format-and-submission-requirements/> Address the letter to: The Barry Goldwater Scholarship Selection Committee (please DO NOT address to NIFS Office or To Whom It May Concern)
* Two pages, single-spaced, on letterhead, signed
* Those who work at facilities, like federal laboratories, that do not allow the use of letterhead do not have to use letterhead