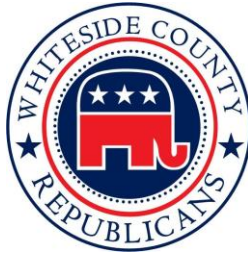


WHITESIDE COUNTY REPUBLICANS



APPLICATION 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

NOTE TO APPLICANT: Application is immediately disqualified if ANY of the requirements are not met.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a resident, and registered voter of Whiteside County. (Individuals can register to vote at age 17 if the individual will be 18 years of age by the November General Election in even numbered years.)

- **Graduating high school seniors** – applicants must be currently a Whiteside County high school senior, planning to attend a two- or four-year college or trade school in the fall of 2024.
- Applicant must be ranked in the upper 10% of their high school graduating class or a member of the National Honor Society.
- **College or trade school students** – applicants must be currently attending a two- or four-year college or trade school. The college/trade school can be located anywhere in Illinois or any other state. The applicant shall be a registered voter in Whiteside County. A current GPA of 3.25 out of 4.00 is required.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA:

- Applicant is to submit a copy of the letter of acceptance signed by an enrollment administrator from an accredited college or trade school
- If already attending a college/trade school, the applicant must submit a copy of a college transcript signed by a college administrator.
- Applicant is to submit a copy of high school/college transcript, on official school letterhead, signed by their counselor/college administrator. The transcript will indicate the student's ranking.
- A 1000-word essay, as described below.

- Applicant must have their scholarship application signed by their high school counselor or college advisor.
- Missing items disqualifies the applicant.

ESSAY:

Theme for the essay is:

In November 2024, the country will choose a president. Which of the following will you consider the most important issue in your decision and why: the economy, the open border, crime, abortion, or the national debt?

The application **must** have a separate title page for the essay. Applicant will choose a title that is most appropriate for their topic.

Essay should accomplish the following:

- Identify at least three (3) ideas that are relevant to the concern
- Develop the ideas and discuss what has been the cause(s)
- Discuss the pros and cons of the key points
- Applicant shall defend the position citing research, news articles, books, or other professional sources
- Provide ideas for solution and cite research, news articles, books or other professional sources
- Discuss solutions and the projection of success

Address the topic in a purposeful way that reflects original ideas and insight.

Support the main point(s) with well-developed ideas, provide examples, and cite resources.

Organize in such a way to build a logical and coherent argument(s).

All essays must be original, factually accurate and free from plagiarism. Discovered plagiarism will disqualify the application.

Applicant's 1000-word essay must be:

Typed

Double-spaced

12-point font

8-1/2" x 11" unlined white bond paper

English language

Handwritten essays will not be accepted.

Sources cited in the essay must be properly footnoted; elimination of this disqualifies the essay.

For publications:

Author last name, Author full first name, Title of Publication, date of publication, page(s) of information sourced.

For content obtained via the internet:

Specify the site (i.e., YouTube), Title, Date, and URL or link.

If a direct quote is used, this must be in proper format.

Award Guidelines:

Two (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded.

- One \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating high school senior.
- One \$1,000.00 scholarship to a student attending college/trade school.

All entries will be reviewed by the Whiteside County Republicans Scholarship Committee. The committee members will select the scholarship recipient based upon class ranking (or GPA), extracurricular activities, service activities, and thoroughness of the essay with an emphasis on grammar, clarity, development of ideas, references, and realistic solution (s) to the topic of concern. The top two (2) or three (3) applications for each award will be forwarded to the WCR membership for the final vote.

Award winners will be notified after the May 2024 meeting of WCR when the final vote is taken. Thereafter, the funds will be made payable to the college/trade school of the scholarship winners' choice.

Deadline:

All completed applications, documentation and essays shall be:

- Mailed to:
Whiteside County Republicans 2024 Scholarship
Attention: Paulette M. Selmi
203 3rd Avenue
Sterling, Illinois 61081

POSTMARKED Not Later than March 15, 2024.

Hand-delivered applications will NOT be accepted. Applications not bearing a USPS postmark on or before March 15, 2024, will automatically be disqualified.

Submit questions to: **docselmi@gmail.com**

Scholarship Application Packet Checklist

- Application form signed and dated by school counselor/college advisor
- Application form signed and dated by student
- 1000-word essay with separate title page
- Copy of letter of acceptance from college applicant attends or will be attending, signed by enrollment/college administrator
- Official copy of high school/college transcript on official letterhead and signed by counselor/college administrator

Sincerely,

Paulette M. Selmi

Paulette M. Selmi
for the Committee