



McCreary Co. Chamber of Commerce 2026 Scholarship Application

Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2026

Thank you for your interest in the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. We encourage you to read the entire scholarship package very carefully. Failure to complete the requirements will automatically disqualify the applicant.

Each year, the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce takes pride in awarding a \$500 scholarship to a qualified graduating high school senior. The scholarship criteria is based on the applicant's scholastic achievement, interest in continuing education, participation and leadership in school and community activities and reputation for good citizenship and moral character.

Students will be required to submit a creative writing response which will be reviewed by the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce, or a subsequent scholarship committee. Writing responses will be judged on content, creativity, quality, and structure.

Please mail your completed application and essay to:
Scholarship Committee
McCreary County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 548
Whitley City, KY 42653

McCreary County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Requirements

The McCreary County Chamber of Commerce is awarding one (1) scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 for 2026. Application packets may be obtained at the following locations with the listed individual: MCHS-Russell Gilreath, McCreary Tourism-Michelle Perry, South Fork Clothing-Lisa Frye, Crabtree-Wilson Insurance-Wendy Wilson, UCB-Traci Perry, State Farm-Randy Kidd, Courthouse-Josh Stephens, Big South Fork Scenic Railway- Crystal Taylor, Davis Auto Repair-Jamie Davis

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicants must be a high school senior and resident of McCreary County, and have no familiar or business affiliation to a member of the 2026 McCreary County Chamber of Commerce Board of Election.
2. Applicants must be in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and must provide a transcript as proof of that GPA with their application.
3. Students must include two (2) Letters of Recommendation; one letter of recommendation should be school affiliated (i.e. teacher, counselor, coach, principal) and one from the community, but a non-family member (i.e. church/community leader, employer)
4. Applicant must return completed Scholarship Application to the address listed
5. Applicant's essays must be no more than 500 words and no fewer than 300. (The essay question for the 2026 McCreary County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship will be on the last page)

Application Procedures: Applications must be mailed to the above listed address and postmarked no later than **Friday, May 1, 2026**. The application should be complete with all requirements enclosed with the application. If any required material has been left out, the application will be void and not considered.

Selection Procedures: All applications and supporting documents will be reviewed by the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce Selection Committee to ensure that candidates have achieved minimum eligibility requirements. Applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee. Once a selection has been made, the school of the scholarship recipient will be notified. The check will be made payable to the applicant. As part of the scholarship process, the 2026 scholarship recipient will receive the scholarship at their school's Awards Night..

APPLICATION

Please type or print clearly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: Male _____ Female _____

E-mail: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____

Post-secondary plans, including your intended major _____

Please be specific in the Following Areas:

Please summarize any school organizations of which you were a member and offices held.

Please summarize any community activities you participated in while attending school.

Describe an event in the past 4 years in which you demonstrated strong leadership skills.

List your high school awards and honors.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Applicant Certification and Release of Information:

- I certify that all information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I certify that I meet all eligibility requirements as specified in this application and the accompanying instructions.
- I understand that application materials become property of the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce and will not be returned.

- I hereby authorize the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce to use information about and from my application and my likeness, which may be used, not not limited to, the following purposes: public relations, publicity or other scholarship opportunities.

Applicant Signature: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian, should applicant not reached adulthood:

Date: _____

Essay

Essay should be typed and submitted on a separate form and submitted with the application. *As a reminder, included with the essay and application should be a transcript as proof of GPA and two letters of recommendation.*

Essay Requirements: Applicant's essay must be no more than 500 words and no fewer than 300.

Essay Topic: The strength of McCreary County depends on the people who choose to invest in it. Explain your future goals and how you plan to use your education, skills, and experiences to contribute to the growth and success of McCreary County and its workforce.