

2024 MERCER COUNTY JAYCEES SCHOLARSHIP

The Mercer County Jaycees is offering at least one \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who is a resident of the Mercer County School District. The winner(s) will be determined through a selection process by the Mercer County Jaycees. The selection will be based upon the content and quality of submitted essays. The scholarship will be presented to the winner in the form of a check made out directly to the individual. To be considered for this scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in the Mercer County School District #404
- Have formal plans to pursue post-secondary education (*i.e. college, university, trade school, vocational, military*)
- Meet Illinois High School graduation requirements
- Must graduate from high school in 2024
- Must submit an essay by the deadline of **April 29th, 2024**.

In order to ensure objective judgment by the selection committee, the essay must be submitted in the following manner:

- You must remain anonymous - do not put your name in or on the essay
- Typed on standard white copy paper using a standard font and text size, and be double-spaced
- Essay content must not make specific reference to yourself or your family names
- Essay should be approximately 750 - 1000 words

Include a brief biography (separated from essay) with:

- Your name and age
- Your favorite classes and extracurricular activities you've been involved in
- Description of your post-high school education plans

SUBMISSION OF ESSAY

1. Staple essay on top of biographical sheet
2. Mail to: Mercer County Jaycees- PO BOX 97 Aledo, IL 61231
3. You can put a return address on the envelope, but please don't include your Name.
4. Improperly submitted essays will be disqualified
5. Essays received after **April 29th** will not be considered.

(Please see back/2nd page for essay details)

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The Mercer County Jaycees are a public-service oriented organization made up of young men and women (under 40) who are committed to making their community a better place. The primary mission of the MC Jaycees is to focus on the needs of families and kids. Through fundraising efforts, the MC Jaycees are able to give back to the community in a wide variety of ways. From sponsoring park upgrades, volunteering for community events such as the Frog Races, and providing toys for kids at Christmas, we make an impact on the community. In addition, we achieve these goals while having fun and enjoying the camaraderie of each other.

ESSAY THEME:

As is indicated above, service and working together is something that our organization believes is very important. Please discuss your previous/current community service efforts, how you plan on continuing your involvement in the near future, and how you feel this service benefits the community as a whole.

The Jaycee Creed

We believe:

*That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.*