

Instructions to Applicants for the Hillsdale County Democratic Party Scholarship

The Hillsdale County Democratic Party is pleased to offer two \$500 non-renewable scholarships each year to current seniors. We wish to honor a student's past school performance, current positive contributions to community, as well as his or her understanding of ***The Importance of Voting in a Democracy*** as determined in an essay written by the student on this topic. The scholarships will be announced at each student's class night celebration with a scholarship certificate to be presented at the Truman Dinner in August. The winners will be asked to read their essays at the Truman Dinner. One half of the money will be sent to the students at the beginning of each semester of their freshman year when proof of enrollment is provided to the Scholarship Chairman of the Hillsdale County Democratic Party.

The **eligibility criteria** for one of these scholarships includes:

- **Applicant must be a graduating senior and a resident of Hillsdale County with a 3.0 GPA**
- **Applicant must be graduating from a public high school in Hillsdale County** (Camden-Frontier High School, Hillsdale High School, Jonesville High School, Litchfield High School, North Adams High School, Pittsford High School, Reading High School or Waldron High School)
- **Applicant must be accepted and enrolled full time in any two or four year college, university, or trade school full time** (carrying at least 12 credits), for the fall semester following his or her senior year of high school

To apply for one of these scholarships, submit all of the following:

- The completed **application form** (or submit a resume that addresses all areas on the application)
- An **official high school transcript**
- An **essay discussing *The importance of Voting in a Democracy*** which you have researched and documented. You may include brief quotes from individuals, but you must give credit to anyone you quote. Your essay should not exceed two double-spaced typed pages (using a 12 point font that is easily read). This essay is very important in the selection process. An application without the essay will not be considered.
- **Two letters of recommendation:** One must be from a teacher or an administrator who knows you well. The other could be from another teacher, a coach, a minister or an employer who knows you well. Letters of recommendation are not to be written by family members. (Please write a thank-you note to anyone who gives you a reference.)
- **Verification from a school counselor** that you have a **3.0 GPA**
- A copy of your **letter of acceptance to a college, university or a trade school**.
- A **one-page personal statement** regarding your educational plans and career goals. You may include motivating factors, important experiences, challenges, or even failures that have helped to shape you and your plans for the future. This personal statement will help the scholarship committee to know you as an individual.

All **applications must be postmarked no later than March 25, 2020**. Send your application via snail mail or e-mail to:

Liz Webb, 4911 Foust Rd. Osseo, MI 49266 or email lwlawebb@gmail.com questions? call: 517-439-1737

The winners will be announced at the Honors Night/Banquet for seniors in their respective high schools. They will also be introduced (with their families) at the Truman Dinner held by the Hillsdale County Democratic Party in August, 2020.

Sincerely,

Liz Webb,
Scholarship Chair
The Hillsdale County Democratic Party

Hillsdale County Democratic Party Scholarship Application

Please complete the following form in ink or include a resume that includes all of the following information.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone Number(s) _____

APPLICANT PROFILE (Additional sheets may be used if needed.)

Academic Achievement: List below academic honors or awards received.

<u>Honor/Award</u>	<u>Reason for Award</u>	<u>Grade/Age</u>
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2. High School Activities: List below all activities in your school in which you have participated and made a positive contribution.

3. Paid Work Experience:

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date Employed</u>	<u>Hours worked per week</u>
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4. Other grants or scholarships applied for include:

5. Community Service: List any community service activities in which you have participated as well as the person in charge of each activity.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Date</u>
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6. Unusual Circumstances: Please describe any unusual family or personal circumstances that you think warrant special consideration.

7. Write a brief statement (3-5 sentences) as to how a political idea or an office holder has influenced you.

8. List the colleges, universities or trade schools to which you have been accepted.

9. Are you a registered voter? Yes No

10. Describe any political activities in which you have participated.

Your signature at the end of the application authorizes the Hillsdale County Democratic Party Scholarship Committee to examine your academic and personal records. It also certifies the accuracy of the information you have provided. **UNSIGNED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Applicant's Authorization Signature: _____ **Date** _____

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR APPLICATION:

- **Required essay on *The Importance of Voting in a Democracy* (See the instruction letter for specifics.)**
- **Your academic transcript**
- **A copy of a letter of acceptance from a college**
- **Two letters of recommendation from professionals who know you well (but not a relative)**