



Josephine Marley Beckwith Future Leader Scholarship Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Name of School Counselor: _____ 2025-2026 High School level: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Intended Major (Optional): _____

Career Goals: _____

Application Requirements:

The following **MUST** be submitted with this **COMPLETED** and **SIGNED** application. *If the application is not complete the application will not be considered (no exceptions):*

- 1) **TWO (2)** letters of recommendation.
- 2) An **OFFICIAL** academic transcript. OFFICIAL is a sealed, signature stamped envelope sent from the school/college or university. An electronic transcript is considered OFFICIAL if the intended party is the direct mail recipient. Reprints, rescanned, or forwarded emails are considered UNOFFICIAL. YWCA Email is info@ywcaswil.org.
- 3) A **TYPED 250 – 500-word essay** describing the following: **What efforts (policies, programs, etc) would you make to help empower women, eliminate racism and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all?**

In addition to your essay, please include the following to support your efforts:

- a) Community Service and/or activities that support racial justice for women/ladies.
- b) Leadership Experiences and/or Office positions
- c) Extracurricular Activities



- d) Employment (attached resume is optional)
- e) High School Honors and Awards

4) This scholarship is restricted to high school senior girls attending high school in Madison County and residing in Madison County.

Note: *Dependent on funding, Two (2) renewable \$1000 Scholarship will be awarded and presented to the selected recipient upon proof of each year of enrollment. **Please read the Frequently Asked Questions attached to this document.***

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Please email your application to info@ywcaswil.org by Friday, February 7, 2025. No applications will be accepted after that date. In addition, please drop off original transcripts at YWCA by Friday, February 7, 2025 or have electronic transcripts mailed to YWCA by February 7, 2025. Please contact YWCA at 618.465.7774 with any questions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

How do I apply for the JMBFL Scholarship?

Email a completed application, two letters of recommendation, essay, and an official transcript to YWCA, 304 E. Third Street, Alton, IL 62002-2406 by **Friday, February 7, 2025**. Please drop off official transcripts to YWCA by the February 7, 2025 deadline. Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted. YWCA will send a confirmation email once we receive your application.

Where can I get an application?

- www.ywcaswil.org
- YWCA emails scholarship materials to all high schools located in Madison County.
 - Request a copy in your high school guidance counselor's office
- At the front desk of the YWCA Southwestern Illinois; 304 E. Third Street; Alton IL 62002
- Request by email – info@ywcaswil.org

What does the JMBFL Selection Committee look for when selecting recipients?

JMBFL awardees are well-rounded students who are actively involved in their school and community. These leaders are passionate, service-oriented, and demonstrate a sustained commitment to bettering their community and the mission of YWCA- they have an ambition to change something in the world for the better.

Is the scholarship need-based?

No, the JMBFL Scholarship is achievement-based.

How can the scholarship be used?

The scholarship check is mailed directly to the student upon proof of enrollment in an accredited post high school institution. The funds may be used as the recipient sees fit.

What is the application deadline for the JMBFL Award?

Applications must be emailed to YWCA at info@ywcaswil.org by February 7, 2025. Official transcripts can be emailed to info@ywcaswil.org or dropped off or mailed to YWCA—but we must have the original transcripts by the February 7, 2025 deadline.

Why can I no longer mail my application?

We have a tight time frame for this year's scholarship process and US mail has been proven to be very slow.

How many awards will be given away?

Dependent on funding, up to two outstanding young women will be honored with a renewable \$1,000 scholarship at the annual Women of Distinction event on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Is the award Renewable?

Yes, with proof of enrollment in an accredited post high school institution, continued community service work and volunteerism that is consistent with the mission of YWCA and a minimum 3.0 GPA. First year recipients (Freshman) must complete at least 15 years of community service to be eligible. Second, third and fourth year recipients must complete 30 hours of community service to be eligible for renewal.

YWCA Southwestern Illinois

304 East Third St, Alton, IL 62002-2406

618 465-7774 www.ywcaswil.org



It is essential for you to complete your required community service hours and maintain a 3.0 grade point to be eligible for renewals.

What constitutes community service for renewal applicants?

Community service involves voluntary, unpaid activities that provide a meaningful benefit to the broader community. It should not be part of obligations tied to membership in extracurricular activities, such as tasks required for a sports team, cheerleading squad, or other club. Instead, community service should address the needs of the public or an underserved group, promoting the welfare of the community as a whole rather than benefiting a specific group of individuals associated with an organization or team.

Examples of Acceptable Community Service Activities:

- Volunteering at a local food pantry or soup kitchen.
- Participating in community clean-up events or beautification projects.
- Organizing or assisting with a charity fundraiser that benefits the community.
- Tutoring or mentoring younger students through a nonprofit program.
- Helping at a senior center, such as assisting with activities or events.
- Contributing time to animal shelters or rescue organizations.
- Supporting local events like voter registration drives or cultural celebrations.

Examples of Activities That Do Not Qualify:

- Selling tickets or managing equipment as part of a sports team requirement.
- Decorating for or participating in events solely benefiting a specific club or team.
- Fundraising exclusively for personal or team-related expenses (e.g., travel or uniforms).

When will I find out if I received the award?

The award recipient will be notified by the YWCA Executive Director or the Chair of the JMBFL Scholarship Committee once final decisions have been made by the selection committee.

If I graduate mid-year [December] am I still eligible?

Yes, any applicant that has completed seven semesters of high school courses is eligible.

Tips:

- This is not a time to be humble! Make sure you give yourself credit where credit is due. So, if you are involved with community organizations, school clubs, your church or any other kind of service/volunteering or other pursuits make sure to include EVERYTHING you have done so the JMBFL selection committee can see how awesome you are!
- Really focus on the things you've been involved in throughout high school. The JMBFL Award is committed to supporting and nurturing young women who demonstrate leadership, service, and community involvement, and you should do your best to show how you fit these criteria.

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- Don't feel that any activity is too small or too insignificant - if you invested your time, mention it! You don't need to be involved in every activity imaginable to be a competitive candidate. It's all about quality not quantity.
- Be careful not to rush through the application. Take the time necessary to fill it out as thoroughly and accurately as possible to give the selection committee the clearest picture of who you are!
- Highlight what makes you unique. This application allows you to tell your story in a very limited amount of space. Take advantage of every spot and focus on what will make you stand out in a group of other brilliant applicants.
- During the application, utilize this opportunity to write down different activities that you've been a part of over the years. Include everything that you've done, no matter how small you think it may be!
- Don't wait until the night of the deadline to fill out this application! Do your homework beforehand. Good luck!

Information to gather:

An **official transcript** – you will need this to report the course level and grades that you have received since your freshman year in high school.

- The **name, email address and phone number** of your guidance counselor.
- A list of **school and non-school related clubs and organizations** in which you have participated since your freshman year and any corresponding leadership positions.
- A list of **honors and awards** that you received when participating in school and non-school related clubs and organizations and the level of each award (Local, State, Regional or National) since your freshman year.
- A list of **your volunteer organizations** with which you have served, the number of hours served with each and any awards and honors that you have received for your participation since freshman year.
- Any special projects or activities you have completed.