

**YWCA**  
**IS ON A**  
**MISSION**

eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**

## JOSEPHINE MARLEY BECKWITH FUTURE LEADER SCHOLARSHIP

Dear Applicant,

The core focus of the YWCA has been the empowerment of women and girls, as well as racial justice since its inception in 1858. Since 1991, the YWCA of Alton has had the honor and privilege of acknowledging the outstanding accomplishments made by high school senior women in the River Bend area who, through their work and volunteerism, promote the YWCA MISSION:

***The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.***

These outstanding young women are honored with a renewable scholarship at the annual Women of Distinction Dinner. This year's Dinner will be held **Thursday August 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Best Western Premier hotel in Alton.** A recognition Tea for the JMBFL Scholars and the WOD Honorees will be held at a date to be determined at YWCA Southwestern Illinois, 304 E. Third Street, Alton, IL.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

1. Open to young women, seniors enrolled in High Schools in the YWCA service area: *Alton, Civic Memorial, Collinsville, East Alton-Wood River, Edwardsville, Granite City, Highland, Madison, Marquette, Metro-East Lutheran, Mississippi Valley Christian, Roxana, Triad and Venice.*
2. Must have completed at least seven semesters of high school courses.
3. Must have a 3.0 Grade point average.
4. Matriculate as a full-time student [12 or more credit hours] to an accredited institution of higher learning.
5. Compose an essay of at least 250 words: **"What efforts [policies, programs, etc.] would you make to help empower women, eliminate racism and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all?"**
6. Be available for interview by the selection committee [if requested].

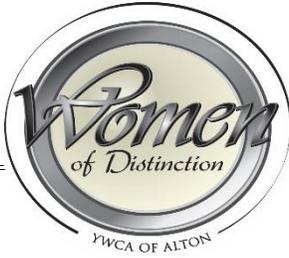
### **Application Instructions:**

1. Application must provide all information requested.
2. An OFFICIAL transcript must accompany the Application.
3. Application must be typed or printed in black ink only.
4. Essay must be one page, typed, [12-point type], double spaced.
5. Provide two (2) letters of recommendation.
6. Application must be signed by the Applicant.
7. Application must be postmarked, or hand delivered by 5:00 pm, no later than **April 2, 2021.**
8. ***Incomplete applications will not be considered.***

Notification of selection will be made by phone or e-mail on or before April 21, 2021.

Questions: Contact Erica Bratton – [msbratton02@gmail.com](mailto:msbratton02@gmail.com) or 618-719-9135.

**MAIL or DELIVER to:** JMBFL Selection Committee  
YWCA Southwestern Illinois  
304 E. Third Street, Alton, IL 62002-2406



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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do I apply for the JMBFL Scholarship?**

An application is mailed or emailed to the guidance office at *Alton, Civic Memorial, Collinsville, East Alton-Wood River, Edwardsville, Granite City, Highland, Madison, Marquette, Metro-East Lutheran, Mississippi Valley Christian, Roxana, and Triad* in January of each year.

Submit the completed application, two letters of recommendation, and an official transcript to the YWCA, 304 E. Third Street, Alton, IL 62002-2406 by April 2, 2021.

### **Where can I get an application?**

- [www.altonywca.com](http://www.altonywca.com)
- In your high school guidance counselor's office
- At the front desk of the YWCA of Alton; 304 E. Third Street; Alton IL 62002
- Request by email – [info@metroeastywca.org](mailto:info@metroeastywca.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 - 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 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 postmarked no later than April 2, 2021.

### **What does postmarked mean?**

The application must be stamped as received by the post office on or before April 2, 2021, although it may be received by the Selection Committee on a later date.

### **How many awards will be given away?**

Two outstanding young women will be honored with a renewable \$1,000 scholarship at the annual **Women of Distinction** event.

### **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 the YWCA and a minimum 2.5 GPA.

### **When will I find out if I received the award?**

The award recipient will be notified on or before April 21, 2021. Scholarships will be awarded and presented to the academic institutions upon proof of enrollment.

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

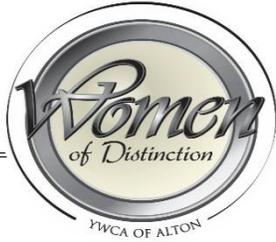
Yes, any applicant that has completed seven semesters of high school courses is eligible.

### 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.
- 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, you have the 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.
- **Definition of Official Transcript:** An OFFICIAL [paper] transcript is printed on special, watermarked paper. Official paper transcripts are sent in a sealed, signature-stamped envelope. An electronic transcript is considered OFFICIAL if the intended party is the direct email recipient. If emailed to the requestor, then forwarded, it is then considered UNOFFICIAL. An electronic transcript which is printed then re-scanned in an email is considered UNOFFICIAL.
- 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.



## JOSEPHINE MARLEY BECKWITH FUTURE LEADER SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

### Eligibility Requirements

7. Open to young women, seniors enrolled in High Schools in the YWCA service area:  
*Alton, Civic Memorial, Collinsville, East Alton-Wood River, Edwardsville, Granite City, Highland, Madison, Marquette, Maryville Christian, Metro-East Lutheran, Mississippi Valley Christian, Roxana, Triad and Venice*
8. Must have completed at least seven semesters of high school courses.
9. Must have a 3.0 Grade point average.
10. Matriculate as a full-time student [12 or more credit hours] to an accredited institution of higher learning.
11. Compose an essay of at least 250 words: **“What efforts [policies, programs, etc.] would you make to help empower women, eliminate racism and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all?”**
12. Be available for interview by the selection committee [if requested].

### Application Instructions

9. Application must provide all information requested.
10. An **official** transcript must accompany the Application.
11. Application must be typed or printed in black ink only.
12. Essay must be one page, typed, [12-point type], double spaced.
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14. Application must be signed by the Applicant.
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**Josephine Marley Beckwith Future Leader Scholarship  
Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone:( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Intended Major: \_\_\_\_\_  
Career Goals: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Application Requirements:**

The following **MUST** be submitted with this **COMPLETED** and **SIGNED** application, **no exceptions:**

- 1) **TWO** (2) letters of recommendation.
- 2) An **OFFICIAL** academic transcript.
- 3) A **TYPED** 250-word essay describing the following (please make sure your name is on each page submitted):
  - a) Leadership Experiences and/or Office positions
  - b) Community Service and/or activities that support racial justice for women and/or girls
  - c) Extracurricular Activities
  - d) Employment
  - e) High School Honors and Awards

**Note:** Only Two (2) renewable \$1000 Scholarship will be awarded and presented to the selected recipient upon proof of each year of enrollment.

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or Hand deliver completed application packet in *one* envelope to:**

JMBFL Selection Committee  
YWCA  
304 East Third Street  
Alton, IL 62002-2406

**Deadline for submission: April 2, 2021 at 5 pm or MUST be postmarked by April 2, 2021.**