

## 2026 MCCF SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES & APPLICATION

**Deadline to Apply – February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Scholarships offered through the Monroe County Community Foundation, an affiliate fund of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO), are made possible by the generosity of donors who support the post-secondary efforts of the region's students. **Only complete applications will be considered.** Scholarship awards will be for the 2026-2027 academic year.

**DIRECTIONS:** Please answer all applicable questions. You are responsible for ensuring all supporting documents are submitted. **This application will only be valid for consideration when all the following information has been received by FAO:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Complete and signed Application Form (pages 3-6).** Read the scholarship opportunities on page 2 to determine if you are eligible for this application and the scholarships included herein.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Applicant Appraisal Form (page 7)** – An appraisal form is included to give to a school counselor, teacher/professor, or other person who is in a position to recommend you according to the given criteria. **Give the form to your appraiser as soon as possible** and determine how they prefer to submit the form. They may return it to you to submit with your application or the appraiser may send it directly to FAO by mail or email.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **SAI (Student Aid Index) page(s) of the FAFSA Submission Summary**, attached to your application. (For more information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov))
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **Transcript (official or unofficial)** – Applicants must include their most recent school transcript.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **Written responses to Personal Statement prompts**, including additional statements if applicable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. **Add [Scholarships@ffao.org](mailto:Scholarships@ffao.org) to your email safe senders list** to ensure you receive all communication and possible award notification emails from FAO.

**Process:** The Monroe County Community Foundation annually appoints a Scholarship Advisory Committee to recommend awards. Final approval is made by the Foundation's Board of Trustees and decisions are final. Monroe County Community Foundation scholarship awards may vary from year to year in the number and amount of each award. Award recipients will be required to submit proof of enrollment. All awards are made payable directly to the institution of enrollment on the recipient's behalf for the purposes and expenses associated with tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required (by all in the class) for coursework.

**Notification of Awards:** FAO will contact scholarship award recipients by April 30, using the email address provided on the application. **Please use a personal email address (vs. a high school email)** and be sure to check all email folders, including junk/spam folders, for correspondence from the Monroe County Community Foundation/FAO. Our website will have a complete list of recipients posted by July 31.

**Complete applications and all supplemental materials must be sent no later than Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**By Email to: [Scholarships@ffao.org](mailto:Scholarships@ffao.org)**

- Write "MCCF Scholarship Application and STUDENT NAME" in subject line of the email.
- All application materials should be scanned into one PDF attachment (unless appraiser prefers to send separately). You do not need to mail originals.
- Emailed applications and appraisals must be received **no later than 11:59PM on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**or By Mail to:** FAO, Attn: MCCF, 35 Public Square, Nelsonville, OH 45764

**Applications sent by mail must be postmarked no later than Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**\*\*PLEASE DO NOT USE STAPLES ON DOCUMENTS OR PRINT 2-SIDED PAGES\*\***

## MCCF 2026-27 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Review the criteria for each scholarship and indicate the award(s) you are applying for on page 2 of your application.

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### Gregory S. Baker Legacy Scholarship

The Gregory S. Baker Legacy Scholarship supports a graduating senior or graduate of Monroe Central High School or a student who has received certification from Swiss Hills Career Center.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be graduating, have a GED, or be a past graduate of Monroe Central High School or Swiss Hills Career Center
  - Must be attending an accredited postsecondary institution providing trade/vocational training and certification, associate, or bachelor's degree
  - Must be pursuing education, training, or certification in firefighting/EMT/EMS (given first priority) or a degree or certificate within the medical field
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### Hoops for the Heart VFD Scholarship

The Hoops for the Heart VFD Scholarship supports students who are accepted into and attend accredited programs providing training and certification in various trades and fields of vocational interest, associate degree programs and four-year institutions of higher learning.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be graduating from a Switzerland of Ohio Local School District high school (Monroe Central or River) in Monroe County, Ohio
  - Must have a connection or tie to the firefighter/EMT or first responder community (e.g., father, mother, grandparent, uncle, etc.).
  - Must be attending an accredited two- or four-year college or training program to become a firefighter, EMT or first responder
  - Must have financial need
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### John and Lois Baker Scholarship

The John and Lois Baker Scholarship supports a graduating senior or graduate of Monroe Central High School or a student who has received certification from Swiss Hills Career Center.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be graduating seniors or graduates of Monroe Central High School or have received a certification from Swiss Hills Career Center
  - Must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average
  - Must plan to pursue full-time, postsecondary education at an accredited college or university
  - Preference may be given to candidates entering forestry or agriculture-related academic fields
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### Monroe County Faith-Based Scholarship

The Monroe County Faith-Based Scholarship supports students who are pursuing postsecondary studies at an accredited college or university, uplifting educational goals of the next generation of faith professionals.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be a graduating senior or graduate of a high school in Monroe County, Ohio
  - Must be attending a faith-based, accredited college, university or Bible college in Ohio
  - Priority will be given to students pursuing a major or minor degree or certification in Christian ministry, mission, or theology fields
  - Additional consideration: GPA of 3.0 and above, financial need, extracurricular activities and charitable work
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**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THE DESCRIPTION PAGE WITH YOUR APPLICATION**

# MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Read the scholarship descriptions and eligibility criteria on page 8 of the application and check the scholarships that you are applying for. Please confirm your eligibility before making your selection(s).

- ☐ Gregory S. Baker Legacy Scholarship
- ☐ Hoops for the Heart VFD Scholarship

- ☐ John and Lois Baker Scholarship
- ☐ Monroe County Faith-Based Scholarship

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ SAI (Student Aid Index): \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Attach SAI page(s) of FAFSA Submission Summary ONLY]*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* FAO will use this email address to communicate with you. Please check your inbox regularly, including spam/junk.

\* DO NOT use your high school email address.

#### How did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

- ☐ MCCF Communication (website, social media, etc.)
- ☐ Newspaper or radio
- ☐ I previously applied for an MCCF Scholarship
- ☐ Referral (school faculty or staff, community or family member, past scholarship applicant, etc.)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY INFORMATION

#### Parent/Guardian #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent/Guardian #2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

#### Names and ages of siblings and any school-aged dependents in the home:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DATA

High School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ HS Graduation Date (month/year): \_\_\_\_\_  
or High School Equivalent Date: \_\_\_\_\_ High School County: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Secondary Institution(s) for which applicant's scholarship is requested:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Choice</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Choice</b>
Name _____	Name _____
Location _____ City _____ State _____	Location _____ City _____ State _____
Is this a faith-based institution? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is this a faith-based institution? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

For 2026-27 school year, indicate year of postsecondary study: 1 2 3 4 5 or Grad School

Pursuing a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
degree Major/Field of Study

Anticipated postsecondary graduation date (month/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Annual Cost:

Tuition \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Room/Board \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Books/Materials \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Housing/Enrollment/Status:

I will: ☐ Live on Campus ☐ Live off Campus ☐ Commute  
I will be/am enrolled: ☐ Less than half-time ☐ Half-time or more ☐ Full-time

Following post-secondary studies, how likely are you to return to the community you are from?  
Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FINANCIAL AID

Please list all awards and amounts, including Grants, Scholarships, and Student Loans already received for the upcoming academic year, and indicate if awards are one-time or renewable:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any pending scholarships, grants, and loans sought for the upcoming academic year:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## TRANSCRIPT AND TEST SCORES

**All applicants must submit their most recent transcript** (official or unofficial) **with this application.**

**All Applicants:** Cumulative unweighted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ / 4.0

**Graduating Seniors and students who have completed less than one semester of postsecondary education:**

Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ in a class of \_\_\_\_\_

### Test Scores

**Many post-secondary schools do not require ACT or SAT scores for admission or scholarship consideration. Submitting your test scores is optional.**

- **ACT:** STEM \_\_\_\_\_ English Language Arts \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Composite Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
(1-36 range)
- **SAT:** Math \_\_\_\_\_ Reading/Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
(400-1600 scale)

## PERSONAL STATEMENTS *(must be attached)*

Please **attach** a detailed typed response to the following questions. Be sure to address how you meet the criteria for the specific scholarship(s) to which you are applying. **NOTE: Additional personal statements may be required.**

1. Please describe yourself, including personal aspirations and anything else you would like us to know about you, including how you envision your life in 5- or 10-years, how your relationship to Appalachian Ohio may change, how you meet the criteria for the specific scholarship(s) for which you are applying, and more.
2. Please describe what receiving a scholarship would mean to you and any personal or family challenges that have affected your academic achievement or extracurricular activities, including work and volunteer experiences.
3. Please describe your community service, extracurricular activities, work, volunteer experience, and any other community engagement, along with any leadership roles, special awards or honors you received.
4. **NOTE: Additional personal statements may be required for some scholarships. Please see the “**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**” section below for details.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Do you have a connection or tie to the firefighter/EMT or first responder community (e.g., father, mother, grandparent, uncle, etc.) and/or are you pursuing education, training, or certification to become a firefighter, EMT/EMS, first responder, or in another medical field?**

☐ **No**      ☐ **Yes – what credential?** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL PERSONAL STATEMENT REQUIRED (include with personal statements 1-3)**

**4A.** Please write an essay discussing your tie to the firefighter/EMT, or first responder community, and/or your interest in pursuing a career in a medical field. Include your connection to this community, what drew you to this career path, and what does becoming an emergency responder and/or medical professional mean to you?

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (continued)

Are you pursuing a major, minor, or certificate in Christian ministry, mission, or theology fields?

☐ No

☐ Yes – what credential? \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL PERSONAL STATEMENT REQUIRED** (include with personal statements 1-3)

**4B.** Please write an essay discussing what compelled you to pursue Christian ministry, mission, and/or theology, how you plan to apply your education in this field, and what this commitment means to you.

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**Certification:** *In submitting this application, I certify the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Falsification of information will result in termination of any scholarship granted.*

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applications are due on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**BEFORE SENDING, PLEASE REVIEW YOUR APPLICATION PACKET AND CONFIRM IT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:**

- ☐ Completed and signed application form, including this page (**p. 3-6**)
- ☐ Appraisal form, included with your application or sent to FAO by your appraiser
- ☐ SAI page(s) of your FAFSA Submission Summary
- ☐ Most recent transcript (official or unofficial)
- ☐ Personal statements, including additional statement(s) if applicable

## Applicant Appraisal

*This form is to be completed by a high school or college counselor, faculty member, advisor, clergy person, instructor, employer, job supervisor, etc.*



Monroe County  
Community Foundation

A Fund Of The \_\_\_\_\_  
FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Appraiser Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions to the Appraiser:** You have been asked to provide information in support of the above student's scholarship application. The form must be submitted to FAO by **February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. **Please give immediate and serious attention to the following questions and provide your thoughts and comments on the student's specific and unique qualifications.** Please return to the applicant in advance of the due date, or if you prefer, scan and email it to [Scholarships@ffao.org](mailto:Scholarships@ffao.org) by the due date (**include "STUDENT NAME and MCCF APPRAISAL" in the email subject line**). Please note: *This appraisal is not an indicator of student perfection, but rather an indicator of scholarly endeavor and passion for post-secondary pursuits. Your thoughtful insights can greatly influence a student's application.*

1. What qualities does this student have that make them a good candidate for a scholarship award? Why would you recommend them for this scholarship award?
2. Please note any pertinent information you feel would be helpful to the selection process. Identify how long you have known the applicant, and the circumstances and experiences that are the basis for this recommendation.

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**Appraiser's Signature**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Relationship to Applicant

Phone