

McHenry County Historical Society

2021 Nancy Fike Scholarship Checklist and Application

INSTRUCTIONS: The application packet must be complete and arranged in the order listed below. All original transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other required documents must be received by MCHS by April 12 in a single package. The application package must be stapled or paper clipped in the top left hand corner. **Incomplete or nonconforming applications will not be considered.**

ELIGIBILITY: The Nancy Fike Scholarship is open to graduating seniors attending any McHenry County high school who have a **minimum GPA of 3.0** and who plan on **studying history, education or the social sciences**. Children and grandchildren of MCHS Board members and staff are not eligible.

CHECKLIST:

- Scholarship application
- Essay of at least 500 words – Topic:

Amid a worldwide health crisis it might be instructive to look back and see how our county and state dealt with an earlier pandemic.

The flu outbreak during World War I killed an estimated 50 million people and infected 10 times as many. In the late 1940s, before vaccines were available, polio outbreaks in the U.S. increased in frequency and size. They disabled an average of more than 35,000 people each year. And, as we know all too well, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has claimed nearly 1.5 million people worldwide.

Specifically, research either the polio epidemic of the 1940s and '50s or the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918-19. What caused the disease? Who were its primary victims? How did it affect our schools and communities? And, how was it eventually brought under control?

Compare the efforts to fight polio or Spanish flu to our current efforts to combat COVID-19. Remember to include McHenry County. Consider interviewing a grandparent or other relative concerning their experiences during the polio epidemic. Bring it on home!

PLEASE CITE YOUR SOURCES.

- Original high school transcript
- Letters of recommendation (at least two, one from a faculty member or administrator at the applicant's school, and another from a community representative)
- Documentation of community service and involvement
- List of extra-curricular activities, honors received and scholastic achievements

APPLICATION

Name of Student: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone numbers: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Address, City, State, ZIP: _____

Intended major or field of study: _____

College/university (if known): _____

GPA (also class rank and SAT/ACT if known): _____

AWARD PROCEDURES: Applicants will be notified of the Society’s decision by May 1. The decision regarding the award is conditional until the applicant meets all the following requirements: The applicant must be accepted to a college or university by May 1, and notify MCHS where he or she will attend, as MCHS will pay the scholarship funds directly to the school on behalf of the scholarship winner. All applicants consent to the use of their name, image and story for MCHS press releases, presentations and other materials. All applicants further agree, should they be selected as the winner, to attend one MCHS board meeting for a presentation ceremony as well as to invite a MCHS representative for a presentation at their high school’s honors event. If the conditional scholarship winner does not fulfill the above requirements, MCHS reserves the right to award it to another worthy applicant.

The McHenry County Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual conduct or orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or any other legally protected class under state or federal law when considering scholarship applications.

Date submitted: _____

FOR OFFICIAL MCHS USE ONLY:

Date received: _____

By: _____

DNQ and reason: _____