

United Way of Hancock County Foundation Secor Scholarship

General Information:

The United Way Foundation of Hancock County has established a scholarship as a memorial to the generosity of Steven and Doris Secor. It is awarded to a high school senior in Hancock County who has a 3.5 grade point average or higher and plans to attend an accredited institution of higher learning to pursue any undergraduate field of study, full time, in the subsequent academic year. The candidate must exhibit a strong emphasis on volunteerism, community service and service learning, which will be evaluated through their leadership, character, and diversity of service experience. The amount of the scholarship will be reviewed and adjusted periodically by the Board of Directors based on recommendations from the Secor Scholarship committee. The award for the 2017-2018 academic year will be \$2,000 and may be renewed annually for three years (for a total of four years) for a total of \$8,000.

One new scholarship will be awarded per year, which is renewable by the recipient, contingent upon satisfying the conditions of the renewal clause (below).

Initial Award Distribution:

Scholarship money is to be applied toward tuition, in the name of the scholar, and will be paid directly to his/her educational institution in each year the student qualifies. If the student determines that financial assistance is not needed for that particular academic year the award amount will be available to the selected alternate. The original award winner will still be eligible to receive the scholarship in subsequent years at the awarded "per year" level, but scholarship awards may not be "rolled up".

Renewal:

Scholarship award recipients may receive a maximum of four awards. However, an award winner that forfeits his/or her award for lack of need reduces the awards he/she is eligible for. Alternate award recipients are eligible for renewal only in years forfeited by the original award recipient. Failure by an award winner to apply for renewal will be treated as a forfeit thus making the alternate eligible. To be considered for renewal applicants will be contacted to submit by July 1 proof of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) grade point minimum, proof of full-time status for the upcoming year, official start date for upcoming year and documented evidence of recent past year's volunteer or extracurricular service involvement.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Residence: Must be a high school senior residing in Hancock County who plans to attend, full time, in the subsequent academic year, an accredited institution of higher learning, to pursue any undergraduate field of study.
- Academic Consideration: Grade point average must be at or above 3.5 on a 4 point scale.
- Volunteer/Extracurricular Involvement: The scholarship candidate must exhibit a strong and diverse emphasis on volunteerism, community service and service-learning evidenced through their activity logs and reference categories of leadership, character and service. Special notice will be given to activities that are voluntary and not required through student group involvement.
- Students related to anyone on the Secor Scholarship Selection Committee or United Way of Hancock County paid staff are not eligible to apply.

Application Deadline:

All applications must be completed electronically and submitted by midnight December 1, 2017. All references must be completed and submitted by December 8, 2017.

Completing the Application:

As you prepare to complete this information, we suggest that you complete and gather all items before filling out the electronic application.

Scholarship Tips

- Be organized. Stay on top of deadlines, gather all pertinent documents, and make copies of everything you submit. Once submitted you should receive a confirmation email. However, it is a good idea to call (419-423-1432) and ask to speak to Beverly Phillips as a follow up to ensure that your scholarship application was received. Although technology can be convenient, sometimes there are unexpected glitches.
- Choose wisely. References are heavily weighted during the selection process, make sure their specific category is understood and the reference is submitted by the deadline.
- Be honest and specific. Don't exaggerate your grades, memberships, skills, or qualifications. Speak to your specific roles and not generically to the experience.
- Follow instructions carefully. Send in what is requested and proofread everything. Typos and missing materials can cost you a scholarship.

References Instructions:

References are weighed heavily in the selection process. When selecting references choose those who will give clear, concise information based on their assigned category. Please provide one name along with two email addresses (if possible) for each reference. United Way staff will contact them to provide complete instructions. References must be submitted electronically. It is imperative that the student follow up with their references to see that they have been completed and submitted by the deadline date of December 7, 2017.

Essay Instructions:

Please prepare, in Word or PDF document, a short essay of 500 words or less titled *What Really Matters*. Place your name and the words "Essay" at the top of the document. It is suggested that you use the "word count" option in Word to ensure you are within the 500-word limit.

Quick tips for an effective essay:

- Organize your thoughts into an outline
- Address the topic. Provide supporting details as well as needed.
- Give your essay a personal edge with attributes that will make your essay stand out.
- Proofread and revise. Watch for grammatical and spelling errors.

High School Transcript (if accessible):

If you have access to your transcript in an electronic format, upload it during the application process. Some schools require that transcript requests go directly to the school. Please have your guidance counselor email it to Beverly.phillips@uw Hancock.org with the subject line: (student name)/transcript.