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foucl.org

**Advocating for Libraries,
Literacy, and Lifelong learning**

Friends of Union County Library 2026 Scholarship Application

The Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) is offering a one-time, non-renewable \$500 scholarship to a Union County High School Senior, who has been accepted to an accredited school of higher education.

The FOUCL Scholarship will be based on a written essay about how books have impacted the student's life.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Applicant must be a graduating Senior from Union County High School, accepted to a college or university. No senior with a parent or grandparent on the judging committee will be eligible. Blind judging will ensure no personal information can identify the applicant.
2. There are no academic requirements such as grade point average or intended secondary concentration of study. The scholarship must be used for academic expenses.
3. The written essay must follow the guidelines and be received at our PO Box, dropped off at the circulation desk or marked received at email, foucl.blairsville@gmail.com, midnight by **March 27th, 2026**. All entries will be confirmed by email.

The address to mail the essay and student info sheet to is:

**FOUCL
Attn: Scholarship Committee
PO Box 1546
Blairsville, GA 30514**

Essay Guidelines:

1. Write an essay about how books have impacted your life. Include how books have shaped your personal development, inspired your educational journey or career choice. It could be any trans-formative experiences or moments of inspiration that stemmed from books, or the role books have played in overcoming challenges, understanding others, or developing life skills.

2. Word Count: Between 750 to 1000 words.
3. Formatting: Typed and double-spaced, using 12 pt Times New Roman.
4. Include the student information sheet provided.
5. Include citations if referencing specific books, authors, or studies.
6. **Do not include any personally identifying information on the essay itself, as it is a blind judging.**
7. Not following the guidelines will automatically disqualify entry.

Scholarship Award and Benefits:

1. Monetary: one-time, non-renewable \$500.00 check.
2. Public recognition at Awards Night, on FOUCL's Facebook page, website, newsletter, and/or a newspaper article.

Deadlines:

1. The written essay must follow the guidelines and be received at our PO Box, dropped off at the circulation desk or marked received email, foucl.blairsville@gmail.com midnight by **March 27th, 2026.**
2. Receipt will be acknowledged by email.
3. Recipient will be notified by April 7th, 2026.