

2024

Friends of the Cary Area Library (FOCAL)

Scholarship Application Form

Please complete the following application and submit it in person to the Cary Area Library Service Center (Front Desk) **no later than Monday, April 22, 2024**. Late applications will not be accepted. Scholarship recipients will be notified/announced at the student's high school Honors Night in May.

The Friends of the Cary Area Library (FOCAL) are pleased to offer two \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors attending a two or four-year college, university, or trade school who reside within the Cary Area Library District. Successful applicants must meet the following criteria.

Be a graduating high school senior with a 3.0 or above GPA, accepted and planning to attend a two or four-year college, university, or trade school.

Complete and sign this application form. Parent/Guardian must sign if under age 18.

Have assisted FOCAL in setting up or working at a book sale, volunteered at the Library and/or have been an active member of the Teen Volunteer Board (TVB).

Respond to your choice of two of the essay questions (minimum one paragraph for each essay).

Provide two short letters of recommendation from a non-family member (supervisor, teacher, coach, counselor, etc) who is knowledgeable of the applicant's character. Letters must be written within three months of the application deadline to meet this criteria.

Live in the Cary Area Library District and have a current Cary Area Library card.

DATE _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

Parent/Guardian signature (if needed) _____

ADDRESS _____

CARY AREA LIBRARY CARD # _____

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING _____ HIGH SCHOOL GPA _____

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CHOSEN COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY or TRADE SCHOOL _____

SUMMARIZE WHY YOU CHOSE THIS SCHOOL _____

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Include volunteer work, clubs or organizations, sports, hobbies, work, etc. Please be very specific and indicate roles held, duration of time spent and activities in which you participated. Attach document to application.

DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CARY AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY OVER THE YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE LIBRARY DISTRICT. Please be very specific describing the volunteer activities in which you participated. Attach document to application.

SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS: Your choice of **TWO** questions. The essays must be the applicant's original work. Responses must be double-spaced and printed in 12 pt font. The length of each essay should be a minimum of one paragraph. Attach document(s) to application.

- Libraries play an important role in the community. What are some underserved groups in the community and how can libraries impact their lives?
- Technology has quickly changed the way libraries function. How will technology continue to change libraries in the future?
- Libraries support life-long learning. How do you feel libraries can support community members at every stage of life?
- In June 2023, Illinois became the first state in the country to pass legislation (HB2789) outlawing book bans. Under this law, Illinois libraries must adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights to receive state-funded grants. What are your thoughts on book bans and this legislation?
- What resources could libraries enhance to be more accessible to the community?

BONUS ESSAY QUESTION: What is your fondest memory of being at the library?

Up to 4 points awarded for bonus question