

BLACK DIRT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2024 Scholarship Application

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Description

The Black Dirt Scholarship Fund awards four scholarships annually, an initiative that has grown over the years in amount and scope. The Fund offers a \$1,500 scholarship to each of four applicants. Applicants are evaluated on their character and level of dedication to the service of others through community volunteer service and/or community work experience.

The Pine Island Chamber of Commerce sponsors these scholarships, which are funded with a portion of the proceeds from the Chamber's Black Dirt Feast and Pumpkinfest events.

Eligibility

Applicant must be a resident of the Town of Warwick, New York, and either a high school senior, who will graduate in June, 2024, or a student at any stage of post-secondary education at an accredited educational facility. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to and involvement in community volunteer service or community work experience. Applicants must be in good academic standing and show evidence of having achieved a minimum grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 (or equivalent). Previous applicants may re-apply for consideration, however prior scholarship winners are not eligible.

Amount of Scholarships

Four scholarships of \$1,500 each

Procedure

Submit an essay of not more than 1,000 words, which answers the following request: "Looking toward the future, describe how you would define a successful individual." Provide a personal résumé of community volunteer service, club memberships with positions held, employment history, extracurricular activities, sports, scholastic activities, and awards/honors received. Submit three letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, or other community members not related to you. Include a copy of your transcript from the guidance department or college registrar. All materials requested, including the essay, must be submitted to the applicants high school guidance department with the following exceptions: Residents attending high schools or colleges outside Warwick must mail application materials directly to the following address: **Pine Island Chamber of Commerce, Black Dirt Scholarship Fund,**

P.O. Box 354, Pine Island, NY 10969.

Application Deadline

All materials must be submitted to the students' high school guidance department by **Friday April 5, 2024** or postmarked (if mailed to the above address) no later than **Tuesday, April 23, 2024.**

Requirements

Winning applicants agree to receive their awards, as guests of the Chamber, at a Pine Island Chamber of Commerce meeting or event on or before September 1, 2024 where they will be asked to speak briefly about their career plans. In addition they must agree to keep the Pine Island Chamber of Commerce informed about their progress, upon completing their first (or next) semester at the post-secondary educational facility of their choice.

The mission of the Pine Island Chamber of Commerce, which was founded in 1961, is to promote prosperity in the business community, support and enhance the uniqueness of the region, and to enrich the lives of all our residents through community spirit and cooperation.



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2024 Scholarship Application

Student's Full Name: _____

Student's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

e-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

Post-secondary education school you expect to attend or are currently attending: _____

Course of study you are pursuing: _____

Name and address of current high school or college: _____

Telephone no. of current high school or college: _____

Date of graduation: _____

Please provide the name of student's parent(s)/guardian(s):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

Application must be accompanied by the following materials:

- ☐ 1. Transcript from guidance department or college registrar
- ☐ 2. Personal résumé
- ☐ 3. Three letters of recommendation
- ☐ 4. Essay

Applicant Certification

I certify that I am a resident of the Town of Warwick and that I have met the eligibility requirements of the application. I agree that, if I am selected as a Black Dirt Scholarship recipient, I will attend and speak at a Pine Island Chamber of Commerce meeting or event after completing my first semester at the post-secondary educational facility of my choice. I also agree to attend a Pine Island Chamber meeting or event on or before September 1, 2024 and speak about my educational and career plans.

Student Signature



Pine Island Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 354, Pine Island NY • <http://pineislandny.com>