



2024 Scholarship

The Friends of the Safety Harbor Library are pleased to announce a \$1,500 educational scholarship opportunity for a student positively influenced by libraries. This is the organization's 10th year awarding a scholarship to a deserving student.

High school seniors who have volunteered at the Safety Harbor Public Library, graduating from a Pinellas County public, private high school or homeschool in June 2024, and continuing their education year as a full-time college student in fall 2024 are eligible.

The Friends' intent for this award is to assist in funding of student textbooks and other required course materials. Applicants must be accepted to full-time undergraduate study, working toward a bachelor or associate degree at a college or university.

Application deadline: Monday, April 1, 2024, 5:00 pm. The recipient will be notified by April 26, 2024.

Application Process: Applications are available at the online: www.FriendsSafetyHarbor.org. (See Scholarship Page.) Completed applications should be returned in person to the library or mailed and must be received before the deadline. Mailing address: Friends of the SHPL – 101 2nd Street N. Safety Harbor, FL 34695. Attn: Scholarship Committee.

Award Amounts: One (1) \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded. Failure to register in a college or university will result in forfeiture of scholarship.

Scholarship Requirements: To qualify for the scholarship, the applicant must:

- Be a US citizen and a former or current volunteer at the Safety Harbor Public Library
- Applicants must have a minimum of 75 volunteer hours at the Safety Harbor Public Library prior to application submission to be considered
- A high school senior with a 3.0 or higher GPA
- A completed application must be submitted along with the required essay and documents by deadline of April 1, 2024 – 5:00PM.
- Accepted as a full-time student to an accredited two or four-year college or university. Confirmation of acceptance into a college or university is required.

Selection Considerations:

Each applicant will be considered for the scholarship based on the following:

- 350-word essay (*Note: Essay has highest percentage of decision weight.*)
- Participation in community and school activities
- Academic achievement
- Awards and recognition
- Volunteer Hours (*Note: Minimum 75 hours required*)

Scholarship Essay:

The applicant will submit a 350-word, original, written essay describing how libraries helped to achieve academic goals and influenced or had an impact on their personal life.

Required Attachments to Application:

Attach all requested documentation and references. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- 350-Word Essay
- Acceptance letter as a full-time student to an accredited two or four-year college or university

Scholarship Details:

- Relatives of members of the Friends Board of Directors or library staff are not eligible.
- Selection of the scholarship will be at the sole discretion of the Friends of the Library Scholarship Committee.
- The award is not transferrable and will be rescinded if there is evidence of deceit, or false and/or deliberately incorrect information submitted on the application. If the Friends rescinds the scholarship award, the scholarship recipient must return all scholarship funds provided by the Friends.
- If the recipient of the Friends Scholarship is unable for any reason to utilize the entire award, the remaining balance must be returned to the Friends.

Awards Ceremony

The Friends of the Safety Harbor Public Library Educational Scholarship will be awarded at the Friends of the Library meeting in May 2024. If student and family are not available, another date will be selected.