



FOUCL to Award \$500 Scholarship

Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) is, for the second year, 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.

All requirements to apply for this scholarship can be found in this article and on our website (foucl.org). The information sheet required for each submittal is also available on our website.

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 stated below and be received through our email address (foucl.blairsville@gmail.com) or at our post office box by March 27, 2026. The address to mail the essay and student information sheet 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 transformative 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 and 1,000 words. 3) Formatting: Typed and double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman. 4) Include the student information sheet which can be found on our website (foucl.org) or picked up from the bookcase outside the Friends Room at Union County Public Library. 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 check. 2) Public recognition at Awards Night, on FOUCL's Facebook page, website, newsletter, and/or a newspaper article.

Deadlines: 1) Essay must be received through our email address or at our post office box by midnight, March 27, 2026. Receipt will be acknowledged by email. 2) Recipient will be notified by April 7, 2026.

For more information, please contact FOUCL at foucl.blairsville@gmail.com.