ACCF ESSAY Topics

Adams County Community Foundation (ACCF)

The ACCF offers many scholarship opportunities for Adams County, IN residents (and students graduating from an Adams Co. high school). Some scholarships require supplemental materials in order to be eligible for their scholarship. Once a student has submitted the ACCF application (due date, **Wednesday**, January 20, by 4:00 pm), students have one additional week to submit their supplemental materials.



ACCF application due date: **Wednesday** after MLK in January by 4:00 pm
Supplemental materials due date: **Wednesday** after application due date in January by 4:00 pm

Supplemental materials: There are different types of supplemental materials. They are:

1. **Proof of Association:** This is a simple, one-page form is available from your high school guidance office and the ACCF website. The proof required varies by each scholarship and is outlined on each form. Only one copy of each proof you choose to submit is required. The following scholarships require a Proof of Association form in order to be considered for their scholarship:
    a. Dixie (Harvey) Arven Proof of Association form available on the ACCF website or your guidance dept.
    b. American Legion Post #43 (Decatur)
    c. American Legion Post #468 (Berne)
    d. Decatur Volunteer Fire Department
    e. Meshberger / LICA
    f. Smith Brothers of Berne / Nick Taylor (requires both proof of association **and** essay)
2. **Essay:** Each scholarship with an essay requirement has a specific topic for students to address. The essay topic and requirements are available from your high school guidance office, the ACCF website, and are included below. Please note that multiple copies of each essay are required for submission. The following essays can be submitted up to seven days after the required ACCF application was submitted.
    a. Decatur Rotary 'Service above Self' Scholarship
    b. Trooper Cory Elson Scholarship
    c. Ebony Ann Fawcett Scholarship
    d. Jr. Achievement Scholarship (AC/NA)
    e. Bryan Miller Scholarship
    f. Nut Tree Reading Scholarship
    g. Kim Tomlin Scholarship
    h. Smith Brothers of Berne / Nick Taylor (requires both proof of association **and** essay)
    i. Officer Jerry Wyss Scholarship
3. **Special Application:** These scholarships have a special, separate application. These can be accessed on the ACCF website
    a. Tiffany Abner Memorial Scholarship (Music and/or Education Scholarship)
    b. AHAIN Scholarship, in Memory of Ralph Biggs
    c. Eric Mies Scholarship for Travel
    d. Dr. H.S. 'Terry' Lee - (requires both proof of association **and** application)
    e. Selking International Trucks
    f. Paul W. Zurcher (Z Fund) - (requires both proof of association **and** application)

All supplemental materials may be submitted on the same day as your application; however, please have these separated from your application. Please paperclip like-essays together. **Reminder: all supplemental materials are due by Wednesday, January 27, 2027 by 4:00 pm.**

ACCF Scholarship Opportunities Requiring Essays

For all following essays.

Copies:	Student must submit **5 copies** (total) of the essay. Submit essays separate from your application.
Length / Font:	maximum two pages, double spaced, margins: 1" / Font: 12 (maximum), 10 (minimum)
Author:	Student's name, high school, and anticipated college in the upper right corner
Essay title:	see each essay listed
Due:	by **4:00** pm W., **January 27, 2027** (late essays will not be considered)

QUESTION: What happens if I check that I plan to submit an essay for added scholarship opportunities – but do not?
Answer: The ACCF will double-check all students' decisions on this form and review submitted essay. There will be no penalty if a student indicates they plan to submit an essay, then they do not.

Eligible students: NA only

C. T. J. Foundation Memorial Scholarship

In memory: Connor Brite, Trevor Ortiz, Jordan Fuelling

Essay Topic: Please address **one** topic. Describe in 2 pages (max) how you have modeled:

- A time when you helped a peer going through a rough time, how it helped them, and what you were able to learn from the situation.
- How you make sure that others around you feel included. Provide example(s) of how you went out of your way to make this person feel

FYI: Anonymous essay author's name will be removed for review

Essay Topic: Eligible Students: AC/ NA

(Decatur) Rotary 'Service above Self' Scholarship

Essay title: Decatur Rotary, Service Above Self Scholarship (centered)
Essay Topic: Please address these three topics. Describe in 2 pages (max) how you have modeled:

- "Service Above Self" in your actions in high school
- What service to others means to you, (and)
- How you will endeavor to serve others wherever your future takes you.

Essay Topic: Eligible Students: AC/ NA / SA

Trooper Cory Elson Memorial Scholarship

Essay title: Trooper Cory Elson Memorial Scholarship (centered)
Essay Topic: Please address two of these three topics. Describe in 2 pages (max) how you have modeled:
What is community service?
How have you participated in community service?
How has this community service impacted you?
In this essay, please give **personal illustration(s)** of how your life or your attitude resembles these topics given.

Essay Topic: Eligible Students: AC/ NA

Ebony Ann Fawcett Memorial Scholarship

Essay title: Ebony Ann Fawcett Memorial Scholarship (centered)
Essay Topic: Please address these three topics. Describe in 2 pages (max) how you have modeled (max 500 words):
Ebony loved helping others, please explain when you have helped others "Keep Smiling & Keep Making Memories"

- Ebony often stated, "She had cancer. She was not sick. GOD is going to do something with it!" Explain a time you have overcome a challenge then helped others.
- Ebony loved GOD, her family and animals. Explain a time when one or all three of these have helped you during a challenge.
- How has knowing Ebony or her journey impacted you/your life?

In this essay, please give **personal illustration(s)** of how your life or your attitude resembles these three topics given.

Essay Topic: Eligible Students: AC/ NA

Junior Achievement Scholarship

Essay title: Junior Achievement Scholarship (centered)
Essay Topic: Please give personal illustration(s). Describe in 2 pages (max):

- "How will you apply the education you have received to impact your local economy through your chosen degree field?"

Note to applicant: Junior Achievement's purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in the global economy. Junior Achievement provides education to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve their own economic success, plan for their futures and make smart academic and economic choices. Note: max: 200 words.

Eligible students: NA only

Bryan James Miller Memorial Scholarship

Essay title: **Bryan James Miller** Memorial Scholarship (centered)
Essay Topic: Please give personal illustration(s) two topics (minimum). Describe in 2 pages (max) how you have modeled:

- Faith: Bryan had a very strong faith and was involved in his church's youth ministry programs. Give an example of how your faith has impacted your life.
- Honesty: Bryan's strong morals and integrity were admirable. Give an example of an experience you had that questioned your honesty, but you made a good choice to exercise honesty and integrity.
- Humor: Bryan's friends often shared stories of Bryan's humor and wit. Courteous or polite humor is a trait often appreciated. Describe an example of an incident where you exercised good-taste in a humorous situation.
- Family and friends: Bryan's was very close to his family and friends. Rarely would he be alone. He loved his parents, sister, grandparents and friends. His family treasured the time they spent together.

Note to applicant: When evaluating the **Bryan James Miller** essays, the selection committee will look for the description of behavior or the lifestyle of the applicant. The scholarship committee will review how an applicant handled a situation and/or how the applicant possesses two or more of the key qualities and values admired in Bryan.

Essay Topic: Eligible Students: AC/ NA / SA

Nut Tree Reading Scholarship

Essay title: Nut Tree Reading Scholarship / **How Reading Has Impacted My Life** (centered)

For example (but not limited to): You may opt to use these suggestions only to springboard into the topic of your choice

Travel Books / Suspense / Education / Fiction / Nonfiction / Biographies / Autobiographies / Humor / etc. / etc.

What books draw your attention? Why?
Have you learned a life's lesson through your reading experiences? If yes, how?
Has reading helped you to form the educational goals you have set for yourself? If yes, how?
Was there a book you read that you felt compelled to share with a friend? If yes, what book and why.

Note to applicant: When evaluating The **Nut Tree Reading** essays, the selection committee will look for the applicant's description of behavior or the lifestyle as it relates to the applicant's reading.
In this essay, please give **personal illustration(s)** of how your life has been impacted by reading. For a completed essay, please address only one or two examples in your essay – max. two pages.

Eligible Students: SA only

Kim Tomlin Memorial Servant Heart Scholarship

Essay title: Kim Tomlin Memorial Servant Heart Scholarship (centered)

Note to applicant: When evaluating the Kim Tomlin essays, the selection committee will look for the description of behavior or the lifestyle of the applicant. The scholarship committee will review how an applicant handled a situation and/or how the applicant possesses one or more of the key qualities and values admired in Kim. Applicants may choose to address and give examples using (minimum) two of the following qualities/values:

Required topic: **Servant Heart** – The mark of a Servant Heart is the ability to see a need, and then come alongside another to address the need without being asked and doing so without desire for recognition or reward. Describe a situation where you recognized a need, and what action you took. Describe the impact of your service.

Personal Integrity – Integrity means being honest and having strong moral principles. A person with integrity behaves ethically and does the right thing, even when no one is watching. Describe a situation where your personal integrity was challenged. Describe the situation, what you chose to do and the outcome of your decision.

Personal Excellence – Kim Tomlin excelled in music. Excellence requires constant commitment and effort. Many want to be excellent, but few want to put in the effort to obtain it. Describe what habits you practice on a regular basis to be excellent. If you are not engaged in music, describe what you are involved in and what you do on a regular basis to be excellent in your chosen discipline.

Academic Excellence – Academic Excellence is more than a GPA, or and SAT score. Academic Excellence is always learning and getting the most out of every opportunity to expand your personal knowledge. Describe a time where you went beyond the assignment to learn something that simply finishing the assignment would not have taught you.
In this essay, please give **personal illustration(s)** of how your life experiences resemble Kim's, and /or an example of how your lifestyle best parallels these engaging principles describing Kim's qualities. For a completed essay, please address only minimum two topics in your essay, max. two pages.

Eligible Students: AC/NA/SA

Officer Jerry Wyss Memorial Scholarship

Essay title: **Officer Jerry Wyss Memorial Scholarship** (centered)

Note to applicant: When evaluating the Officer Jerry Wyss essays, the selection committee will look for the description of behavior or the lifestyle of the applicant. The scholarship committee will review how an applicant handled a situation and/or how the applicant possesses one or more of the key qualities and values admired in Jerry. Applicants may choose to address and give examples using one or two of the following qualities/values:

Hard-working: Jerry worked hard in everything he did. He did not shy away from hard work, and he did not seek undue recognition or sympathy for it; Jerry's perseverance paid off for him on many occasions.
Positive Outlook: Jerry had an attitude that integrated fun into everything he did, whether it was work or play. He made hard work enjoyable, recreation was pleasant, and he remained upbeat and didn't dwell so such matters when things did not go his way.

Loyalty: Jerry was a loyal friend that could always be depended on to jump into action, even if it was inconvenient for him (outside of work) or dangerous for him (while on duty). He would not betray the trust between friends.

Dedicated to Family: Jerry's family was at the top of his life and he loved them fiercely. He looked forward to every minute spent with them and would conscientiously look after extended family members.
In this essay, please give **personal illustration(s)** of how your work ethic resembles Jerry's, and /or an example of how your attitude, and / or life experiences best parallels these endearing values describing Jerry's qualities. For a completed essay, please address only one or two virtues in your essay (max. 2pp).

More Scholarship Opportunities:



Special Application: Eligible students: AC / NA / SA

Eric Mies Scholarship

Note: The Mies application has an open due date depending upon certain restrictions and details (for example, the student's travel dates). If you have questions, please contact the ACCF: accf@AdamsCountyFoundation.org

Student must submit 1 copy (total) of the application to the ACCF. Special application. Due Date: **W. April 21, 2027** (3rd W.)
In the spirit of travel and adventure, this fund was established by family and friends to memorialize Eric Mies. Through this fund, Eric's passion for experiencing the world will continue for students: Adams Central (priority) and Adams County residents (hs and/or college students).



Special Application (2 forms: Proof of Assoc and Essay required)

Smith Brothers/ Nick Taylor Memorial Scholarship

Special Note: Smith Brothers / Nick Taylor Scholarship requires Proof of Association **AND** Essay. If a student is not associated with Smith Brothers Furniture (Berne), likely their essay will not be considered for this scholarship (due date: **W., Jan. 27, 2027**).

Essay Requirements: Student must submit 5 copies (total) of the essay to the Foundation. Submit essays separate from your application.

Length / Font:	maximum two pages, double spaced, margins: 1" / 12 (maximum), 10 (minimum)
Author:	Student's name, high school, and anticipated college in the upper right corner.
Essay title:	Nick Taylor Memorial Scholarship (centered)
Due:	by 4:00 pm the 5th Wednesday in January (late essays will not be considered)
Essay Topic:	Pls address minimum of two topics. Describe in (max) two pages / (with examples) using one or two of the following qualities/values:

- **Served Others:** Nick worked hard while serving others. He was selfless and giving. He did not seek undue recognition for his kindness and compassion for others.
- **Strong Faith:** Nick had an attitude that shared his commitment to God and devotion to his faith.
- **Dedicated to Family:** Nick's family was a top priority, and he loved them infinitely. He treasured every minute with them.

Note to applicant: When evaluating the Nick Taylor essays, the selection committee will look for the description of behavior or the lifestyle of the applicant. The scholarship committee will review how an applicant handled a situation and/or how the applicant possesses one or more of the key qualities and values admired in Nick Taylor. In this essay, please give **personal illustration(s)** of how your life resembles Nick's, and /or an example of how your attitude, and / or life experiences best parallels these endearing values described.

To the applicant: The ACCF will hold the 'Lilly' September applications for the January due date. Applications will be accepted for the January 2027 process. However, if applicants wish to make revisions they may trade out only the revised page(s) or the entire application. This revised application must be in the ACCF office by the listed due date.

Important to note: This check-off form (and the application) requests that the applicant reports their planned college and major. From September to January, if the applicant changes their planned college and/or major for the January due date, this information on the application must be revised.

It's OK to change your major or college, however, be sure to have the check off sheet match your application: If the change is not reflected in the application, this may affect the review committee's decision (if the changed plans from September to January are not consistent on the check off sheet and the application).

Continued: Added scholarship opportunity

Special Application process …….Scholarships Available Requiring Unique Application

Tiffany Abner Memorial Scholarship due: by **4:00** pm by **W., January 20, 2027**



In order to be considered for this scholarship, students must fill out the Tiffany Abner Memorial Scholarship application, (the ACCF website) and submit it by the due date. The successful candidate(s) will have their educational goals as attending an accredited institute or retain lessons from a recognized music instructor.

This scholarship opportunity is available for traditional & on track students residing in Adams or Jay County. Scholarships may be awarded to students seeking to further their education at an accredited institution for a degree in the music field.

TWO opportunities (one application) due: by **4:00** pm by **W., June 2, 2027**





AHAIN Scholarship, in Memory of Charyl Luth
AHAIN Scholarship, in Memory of Ralph Biggs

Eligibility: Students seeking a 2- or 4-year degree or certification are eligible to apply
Students must live in housing supported by the affordable Housing Association of Indiana **or**
Students show a connection to an AHAIN employee
Eligibility field: State of Indiana where affordable housing is located
To apply: Students must submit the AHAIN Scholarship application
Students must submit Proof of Association with AHAIN employee (included in application)

Applications may be submitted via mail (ACCF, 102 N. 2nd St. Decatur, IN 46733), dropped off at the ACCF office during business hours (M-Th 8-4 / F 8-1), or email: accf@AdamsCountyFoundation.org. If you plan to drop off the application outside our business hours, you may place the application in the mail slot on our Madison St. door below the window.

Dr. H.S. 'Terry' Lee and Family Memorial Scholarship due: by **4:00** pm by **W., June 2, 2027**



In order to be considered for this scholarship, students must fill out the Dr. H. S. 'Terry' Lee and Family Memorial Scholarship Application and submit it by the due date noted on the application. This application requires a proof of association which is included within the application.

This scholarship opportunity is available for a traditional, on-track and non-traditional students. As such, it will have multiple due dates during the calendar year.

Applicants will show how their lives represent the commitment and dedication as exemplified by Dr. Terry Lee. Applicants must show a connection to the Adams Health Network (employee or employee's spouse/child/dependent). Scholarships may be awarded to students seeking to further their education at an accredited institution for a two-year, four-year or advance-degree in the health-care field. This is to include, but not limited to, Medical School, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Technical School, to include Medical Coding, Hospital Administrative positions, etc.

Selking International Trucks Scholarship due: by **4:00** pm by **W., January 20, 2027**

Eligibility: Students seeking a vocational training for (priority) diesel mechanics or field of business.
Eligibility field: three state area where a Selking International Trucks business is located
To apply: Students must submit the Selking International Trucks Scholarship application

Applications may be submitted via mail (ACCF, 102 N. 2nd St. Decatur, IN 46733), dropped off at the ACCF office during business hours (M-Th 8-4 / F 8-1), or via email: accf@AdamsCountyFoundation.org. If you plan to drop off the application outside our business hours, you may place the application in the mail slot on our Madison St. door below the window.

Paul W. Zurcher Memorial Scholarship due: by **4:00** pm by **W., January 20, 2027**



Eligibility: Students seeking a 2- or 4-year degree or post-secondary vocational training are eligible to apply
Students must show a connection to the Best-One Tire & Service group (Best-One employee or employee' spouse/ child dependent)
Eligibility field: 14 state area where a Best One Tire business is located
To apply: Students must submit the Paul W. Zurcher (Z Fund) Memorial Scholarship application
Students must submit Proof of Association with Best-One Tire & Service (included in application)
Students must submit essay showing how they live out Paul's Nine Commitments through school, church, or community activities (see application for details)

Applications may be submitted via mail (ACCF 102 N. 2nd St. Decatur, IN 46733), dropped off at the ACCF office during business hours (M-Th 8-4 / F 8-1), or via email: accf@AdamsCountyFoundation.org. If you plan to drop off the application outside our business hours, you may place the application in the mail slot on our Madison St. door below the window.

To access the Abner, AHAIN, Mies, Selking International Trucks, Smith Bros., Dr. Lee, or Zurcher application contact the ACCF at Accf@AdamsCountyFoundation.org

END