

Pike County Historical Society Scholarship

\$500 award sponsored by



UNITED COMMUNITY BANK
The Leader of Community Banking



This scholarship is open to all past graduates of and high school seniors graduating from a Pike County school (Meredosia-Chambersburg, Griggsville-Perry, Pittsfield, Western, Pleasant Hill, and homeschool) who are currently pursuing post-secondary education or training at any institution or vocation.

All that is required for this application is the completed scholarship form and essay. Do not include a transcript or tax forms.

The due date is May 1, 2026. The winner will be notified by May 15 and will receive their \$500 award soon after. At the time of notification, we will arrange a time to give the winner their check.

Entries must be mailed AND emailed to us. Please take a picture of your completed form and attach it to your email. Essays should be a Word (doc or docx) or PDF file.

Mail entries to the address below. Must be postmarked no later than the due date.

Pike County Historical Society
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 44
Pittsfield, Illinois 62363

Email entries to the following address. Must be received no later than midnight on May 1.

PikeCountyILHistoricalSociety@gmail.com
→ don't forget the IL in the middle or it goes to Indiana!

Essay

In no fewer than 750 words, write about a person, place or event in Pike County history.

Be creative in choosing your topic. It should be a little-known subject or a specific aspect of a well-known subject. Correct grammar and punctuation are expected but content is most important. You must credit any sources used. The scholarship will be awarded based on the correct and creative use of historical information. Please refer to the guidelines on the next page.

Please follow these guidelines. Failure to do so will hurt your chance of winning. This page does not need to be returned to us so feel free to mark it up as you work.

For topic ideas, feel free to browse our website at pikecountyilhistoricalsociety.org or contact us directly. We encourage creativity but be sure you can find reliable sources and can develop a well-rounded research paper.

Include a title page that consists of the title of your essay, your name, the essay due date, and your current school or postsecondary venture. Example:

A Year of Discovery: Pike County in 1821

William Ross

April 18, 2025

John Wood Community College

Please only include your name on the title page. Do not put your name on each page with the page number. Anonymity is important for impartial judgment. Page numbers should start with the first page of your essay (title page is page 0/blank, first page of text begins page 1).

Font should be plain and easy to read. Size 12 pt. Examples include Times New Roman, Garamond, Arial, and Calibri. Line spacing should be 1.5 or 2.

Please include your total word count at the end of your essay.

Your writing must be factually correct and must make good use of the sources cited. We will review the information used and sources cited. Among the sources you use, there must be at least one primary and one secondary source. Primary sources include newspapers, interviews, and letters. Secondary sources are usually articles or books written about your topic after the fact. Carefully evaluate your sources for accuracy, appropriateness, and variety. Please include a works cited page with complete citations in MLA or Chicago Style format.

Checklist:

☐ title page
☐ pages numbered
☐ plain font
☐ 1.5 or 2 line spacing

☐ final word count
☐ primary source
☐ secondary source
☐ works cited page

This is the rubric that will be used to guide the evaluation of your essay. These categories are broad and the examples are just to provide the author with an idea of our expectations as well as what could cause the essay not to win. Please consider this as you write. This page does not need to be returned to us so feel free to mark it up as you work.

Score	Formatting	Sources	Writing
3	All formatting guidelines are followed. The title page looks professional and the entire document is clean and stylishly presented. Citations are correct.	One primary and one secondary source are used. They complement each other and are useful to the essay's content. Effort in research is evident.	The topic is interesting and well-executed. The sources are well-implemented. The tone is professional but the voice of the author still comes through. No grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors present.
2	Minor divergences from the guidelines such as an element missing from the title page, missing page numbers, or an odd font is used.	One primary and one secondary source are used but they are not very suitable for the topic or required little effort/research.	The topic is interesting but does not make good use of the sources. A few typos are present.
1	Major divergences from the guidelines such as lack of title page or incomplete works cited page.	Lacking a primary and/or secondary source. Only online sources were used.	The topic is widely known and there is not much original content. There are some editing errors. The writing is hard to understand at times.
0	Formatting guidelines are ignored and largely or entirely missed.	No sources were cited. And/or, the sources were misinterpreted, there is suspicion of plagiarism, or the sources on the works cited page were not used in the content.	Little thought went into the choice of topic and the content is only surface-level information. The writing is dry and choppy and the content is poorly organized. There are several grammar, spelling, and punctuation issues.

Pike County Historical Society Scholarship Form

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Pike High School Graduating/ed From: _____

Graduation Year _____

Post-Secondary Plans (college, trade school, etc.)

Why did you choose to write on this topic? _____

