

DATE: April 7, 2026

TO: All 2026 High School Graduates *and* College Students Potentially Eligible to apply for the St. Joseph County 4-H Scholarship Award Program

FROM: Kayla Mitchell – Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development



RE: St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program, 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship, and Jim & Linda Fritz Family Scholarship

Congratulations on your impending graduation from high school or ongoing college career! If you are planning to continue your education, you will be happy to learn that St. Joseph County has a 4-H scholarship program to assist graduating seniors and college students who are current or former St. Joseph County 4-H members!

There are a total of **nine (9)** post-high school education scholarships available to be awarded. These scholarships may be applied toward tuition, laboratory fees, and/or textbook purchases at any trade school, college, or university (with the scholarship being made payable directly to the educational institution).



MSU EXTENSION
St. Joseph County

612 E. Main St
Centreville, MI 49032

Phone: 269-467-5511
Fax: 269-467-5641
www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph

- **\$1,500 Youth Council Scholarship for Most Qualified Candidate:** 2026 is the 18th year the Youth Council has offered a scholarship to an outstanding candidate.
- **\$1,000 Youth Council Scholarship for Most Qualified Candidate:** 2026 is the 18th year the Youth Council has offered a scholarship to two (2) exemplary candidates.
- **\$750 Youth Council Scholarship:** The Youth Council is offering four (4) scholarships of this amount to excellent candidates.
- **\$2,000 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship:** 2026 marks the 24th year that two (2) former St. Joseph County 4-H members will be pooling resources to fund a **\$2,000** 4-H Achievement/ Service/Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship donors and their previous 4-H club affiliations include Bret Comstock (Leonidas Do-Best) and Mike Rumsey (Rolling Clovers). Bret and Mike feel very strongly about the need to “give back” to the 4-H Youth Program in appreciation for all that 4-H has done for them, including providing the opportunity to develop “life skills” that have helped them become positive, productive members of their communities.
- **\$1,000 Jim & Linda Fritz Family Scholarship:** 2026 marks the 4th year that the Youth Council is offering a scholarship with funds from a generous donation provided by Jim and Linda Fritz Family. Their love for 4-H and higher education made this scholarship the perfect way to give back to St. Joseph County for many years to come.

Please complete the enclosed application, or you may download a copy of the 4-H Youth Council scholarship application from the St. Joseph County 4-H website. Eligibility requirements are listed on page one (1) of the application. All eligibility requirements must be met in order to be granted a scholarship interview, so be sure to review the requirements carefully. Completed applications are due in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 4:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 4, 2026**.

NOTE: Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. There is a black mailbox with a locked compartment next to the employee entrance on the east side of the building for drop-offs after hours. Please call and leave a message if you have left it in the drop box.

Letters of Recommendation and Other Supporting Documents: Please note that you are required to obtain one (1) written recommendation from your 4-H leader of choice (either your club organizational leader or a project leader - see the **4-H Leader Recommendation Form**). Remember to be sure and follow up to make sure they have submitted the appropriate recommendation form/letter to the St. Joseph County MSU Extension Office by the **Monday, May 4** deadline.

You are also required to submit a copy of your official 4-H Project Completion Record (available from the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office) along with your completed application form, and submit a copy of your official high school/college transcript.

Scholarship Selection Committee: The 4-H Scholarship Selection Committee will include one (1) representative each from the 4-H Youth Council and two (2) people from the community.

Required Interview Process: Applicant interviews will be conducted on **Saturday, May 23, 2026**, starting at 9:00 a.m., at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension Office in person or, only if necessary, by Zoom. Interviews will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals on a first-come, first-served basis. The MSU Extension Office will contact eligible applicants to set up an interview time. If a certain interview time is needed due to a conflict, the applicant must notify the office when they submit their application.

Selection Process Results: All applicants will receive a letter following the interviews informing them of the results of the selection process.

The 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship, Jim & Linda Fritz Family Scholarship, and the 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program provide excellent opportunities for you to obtain financial support for pursuing your post-high school education. Do not miss this opportunity to put your "4-H career" to work for you as you work toward the achievement of your career goals!

Please do not hesitate to call me at 269-467-5511 if you have any questions regarding the 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program, 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship, and/or the Jim & Linda Fritz Family Scholarship.

Deadline Reminder and Check List: Scholarship application forms, plus all required supportive materials, are due in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 4:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 4, 2026**. Only applicants for whom all application-related documents have been received by the May 4th deadline will be granted an interview. Application-related documents due by this deadline include:

1. 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program Application Form (6 pages)
2. 4-H Leader Recommendation Form
3. 4-H Project Completion Record
4. Official copy of your high school/college transcript
5. Contact with the MSU Extension Office to schedule an interview time (269-467-5511) by May 15, 2026.