**TEXAS SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS**

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLONY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**2024 SCHOLARSHIP**

The Central Texas Colony has established a $1,000.00 annual scholarship program to assist qualified descendants of Colony members in acquiring a higher education, with a view to their becoming better prepared for life and citizenship. In the Spirit of the Mayflower Pilgrims seeking a better life for themselves and their children in a new and uncharted world, special consideration will be given to applicants who have demonstrated commitment to improving themselves and who will likely benefit from a scholarship. The winner will be selected based on the combined scores of an essay on a given topic, an interview, a character recommendation, an academic teacher recommendation, academic performance, school related activities and extracurricular activities including job experience.

***Eligibility Requirements:***

Students applying for the scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a child or grandchild of a Central Texas Colony member (documentation is required including National and Texas membership number). A Texas Junior Mayflower membership number is also acceptable based on a relationship to a member of the Central Texas Colony.
2. Be a U.S. citizen and a resident of Texas.
3. Be a Texas high school graduating Senior accepted for enrollment in an accredited institution of higher learning.
4. Be in the 60th percentile or higher on SAT or ACT
5. Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (preferably higher)

***Application Packet:***

Applicants must submit an application packet including all of the following:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Copy of birth certificate
3. Proof of residence in Texas
4. GPA and SAT and/or ACT scores
5. Recommendation Form completed by an academic teacher
6. Character Recommendation Form completed by someone other than a
family member
7. Essay of 500-600 words with cited references on the announced topic (3 copies)

**2024 ESSAY TOPIC**

Topics for this year’s competition are: Choose one topic only.

- What motivation can you draw from the Mayflower Pilgrims as you look toward your
 future?

- Which Mayflower Pilgrim inspires you and why?

- What does my Mayflower ancestry mean to me?

The Essay must be TYPED and double-spaced, using 12-point type. All references must be cited at the end of the essay.

Three judges will score the essay on a “blind-judging” basis. A three-person Selection Committee will review all the material in the application packet, as well as the essay scores. They may then interview finalists.

***How The Scores Are Compiled:***

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| --- | --- |
| **Criterion** | **Possible Points** |
| 1. Properly completed application | 5 |
| 2. Academic recommendation from an academic teacher (Math, Science, English, or Social Studies) | 11 |
| 3. Character reference from a non-family member  | 11 |
| 4. 60th percentile on SAT or ACT | 10 |
| 5. GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4-point scale | 11 |
| 6. Awards/Honors/Good Citizenship Awards/Leadership position in a school or community organization (club) | 11 |
| 7. Community service (church, volunteer work, Scouting, 4-H, etc.) Employment (describe type and length). | 11 |
| 8. Essay | 30 |
|  **TOTAL** | 100 |

Please note: All applications must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2024.Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted or evaluated. Because the essay judges do not necessarily live in the same city, it’s critical that entrants provide three (3) copies of the essay. DO NOT put your name on your essay. It will be assigned a number before being sent to the essay judges; however, be sure your essay title is on your application form. This will allow the Selection Committee to match the essay scores to the correct applicant.

***Final Submission of Application*:**

**Applicant must submit the entire application packet (in one package) via USPS postmarked by January 15, 2024.** All items requested should be sent to the following Central Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants Scholarship Committee person:

Sheila Simmons, Scholarship Committee

Central Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants

4316 Canyonside Trail, Austin, TX 78731-2847

1. **No photos** of applicant are to be sent in packet.

If Applicant has any questions, please feel free to contact Sheila Simmons at <sscavaliers2@gmail.com>.

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***Some Final Tips For Applicants:***

1. Have someone DOUBLE-CHECK your facts and your grammar and spelling.
2. Be sure to include both an Academic Reference and a Character Reference.
3. Choose your personal references carefully, especially the person writing the character reference. Ask a teacher or an adviser, current or former, an employer (current or former), a church minister, a mentor (especially from community service you have performed), a Scout leader, etc. It is not advisable to obtain a character reference from a personal friend.
4. When you list your community service and/or employment, the more specific you can be, the better. Describe clearly and specifically what you did, and for how long.
5. ***If you are home-schooled***, your academic recommendation can come from any adult, other than a parent or relative, who has been involved in an academic activity or in a competition with you.

The winner will be notified no later than March 15, 2024

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

 **August 15, 2023 Scholarship Competition opens. Packets are available. January 15, 2024 This is the latest Applications can be postmarked March 15, 2024 Scholarship Winners will be notified by this date**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR APPLICATION!**