

2027 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Community Foundation DeKalb County

Application Rubric

The ideal Lilly Endowment Community Scholar from DeKalb County is a compassionate, service-driven, and motivated young leader who values education, invests in their community, and demonstrates the character and vision to make a lasting difference.

Project Name

Enter your first and last initial, and the last 4 numbers of your phone number. This applicant ID will follow your application throughout the process.

Example

Name: John Smith

Phone Number: 555-5555

Applicant ID: JS5555

Character Limit: 100

SAT or ACT Scores (Academic Achievement)*

5= 1400-1600 SAT Total / 32-36 ACT Composite

4= 1250-1390 SAT Total / 28-31 ACT Composite

3= 1100-1240 SAT Total / 24-27 ACT Composite

2= 950-1090 SAT Total / 20-23 ACT Composite

1= Below 950 SAT Total / Below 20 ACT Composite

0= No test score

Scoring Options: 0 - 5

Leadership & Commitment in Activities*

5 points

- Sustained involvement in multiple activities
- Evidence of **leadership roles or increased responsibility over time**
- Demonstrates **initiative, contribution, or meaningful participation**

3-4 points

- Consistent participation in several activities
- Some leadership or active contribution

1-2 points

- Participation in a few activities but **limited leadership or depth**

- Minimal or short-term involvement

0 points

- No activities listed

Scoring Options: 0 - 5

Community Service***11-12 points**

- Significant and sustained service to others
- Demonstrates **genuine commitment to community needs**
- Clear evidence of **initiative, leadership, or depth of involvement** in service activities

9–10 points

- Consistent volunteer involvement in school, church, or community organizations
- Demonstrates **commitment to helping others**
- Some evidence of **leadership, initiative, or depth of involvement**

6-8 points

- Some volunteer participation with **moderate consistency**
- Limited evidence of **depth, leadership, or long-term commitment**

3–5 points

- Minimal or inconsistent service involvement

1–2 points

- Very limited service involvement

0 points

- No service listed

Reviewers are encouraged to consider:

- service **outside school requirements**
- **long-term commitment**
- whether the student seems **motivated by service rather than résumé building**

Scoring Options: 0 - 12

Employment - Internship - Personal Responsibilities*

Ability to balance work, an internship, and/or personal responsibilities with academic achievement and community service.

Personal responsibilities may include, but aren't limited to, family responsibilities, farm work, or caregiving.

4–5 points

- Significant experience **demonstrating responsibility, reliability, or leadership**
- Consistent employment while balancing school commitments

3 points

- Meaningful experience

2 points

- Limited experience

1 point

- Minimal history

0 points

- No employment listed

Scoring Options: 0 - 5

Essay Rubric

Essay*

The reviewer may deduct points if the applicant did not follow directions. This includes using identifying information, such as names, in your essay.

Excellent (9-10):

- Well written and very organized
- Excellent grammar mechanics and concise statements
- Excellent effort and presentation with detail
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic
- The essay is compelling to the reader
- All parts of the questions are addressed
- Includes specific, meaningful examples that clearly demonstrate their experiences, values, and impact

Good (7-8):

- Writes fairly clearly
- Good grammar mechanics

- Good presentation and organization
- Sufficient effort and detail
- Includes relevant examples, though they may lack depth or specificity

Fair (5-6):

- Minimal effort
- Fair grammar mechanics
- Fair presentation
- Few supporting details
- Limited or general examples with little explanation or connection to the topic

Poor (3-4):

- Somewhat unclear
- Shows little effort
- Poor grammar mechanics
- Confusing and choppy
- Incomplete sentences
- No organized thoughts
- Lacks clear examples or relies on vague, unsupported statements

Very poor (0-2):

- Lack of effort
- Very poor grammar mechanics
- Very unclear
- The essay does not address the questions/topic
- Lack of attempt
- No meaningful examples or connection to personal experiences

Scoring Options: 0 - 10

Scholar Fit

Scholar Fit*

Based on the overall application, how strongly does this student reflect the qualities of a Lilly Endowment Community Scholar for DeKalb County?

The ideal Lilly Endowment Community Scholar from DeKalb County is a compassionate, service-driven, and motivated young leader who values education, invests in their community, and demonstrates the character and vision to make a lasting difference. The scholar demonstrates strong potential for future leadership and service, and may benefit significantly from the financial support and opportunities provided through the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, which can play an important role in making higher education more accessible.

3 points

- Strong alignment with scholar profile

2 points

- Moderate alignment

1 point

- Some alignment

0 points

- Limited alignment

Scoring Options: 0 - 3