



Our scholarship process is one that we take very seriously. Scholarships can be the spark that provides hope for the future and the opportunity to thrive, and it is hard to choose between hundreds of deserving students each year. We must make difficult choices, and we understand that some will be thrilled, and others will feel defeat and loss.

Each application is reviewed by an evaluator who employs the following criteria during the process.

Key criteria for scholarship review:

- Household Income per family
- Merit
- Essay
- Application deadline adherence
- Application requirements were met (school letters/complete and accurate application)

Incomplete applications or application materials are subject to disqualification of the candidate.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted many families, and the number of application submissions was unprecedented, as was need. The funding for the scholarships is made possible by the generosity of corporations in our region, and the pandemic also resulted in fewer funds as corporations were not able to give at the levels they normally would give.

Listed below are some qualifications and commitments necessary to be a scholarship evaluator for the Junior Achievement scholarship process:

- Willingness to spend time individually evaluating and reviewing scholarship applications based on materials that are completed
- Open to learning a numerical rating system and submitting written notes to keep in files to document processes and decisions that were made
- Meetings with key organizational staff in education, management and finance
- Ability to work with other reviewers in a team environment

- Openness in revealing any conflict of interest with potential scholarship applicants
- Understanding the need for fairness, objectivity and non-discrimination within the scholarship selection process
- Ability to focus on the specific selection criteria in determining the award winners