



2026 Kathy Blackford Scholarship

Background and Purpose

- “Kathy Blackford Scholarship” was established in 2021 in honor of retired Ashland County 4-H Educator Kathy Blackford. This scholarship will be awarded annually to current active members in the Ashland County 4-H program. Kathy’s passion for 4-H extended beyond livestock. She brought awareness through outreach school and 4-H programs focusing on science, still life, robotics and shooting sports. She also had a passion for 4-H camp and camp counselors.

These Scholarships will be awarded to **CURRENT** High School seniors in the Ashland County 4-H Program.

Award and Presentation

The Kathy Blackford Scholarship will be awarded a one-time minimum \$500 scholarship. Depending on the number of applicants, numerous awards may be given. A panel of judges will make the selection. Applicant names are not given to the judges, each applicant is assigned a number after submitting their application.

- Scholarships will be awarded at their high school senior awards assembly.
- Name and picture will be displayed in the Jr. Fair building at the Ashland County fair.
- Winners will be honored at the 2026 4-H Awards Banquet.
 - You and your parents are invited as our guests.

Selection Procedure and Criteria

1. Current, active Ashland County 4-H member that has been enrolled and completed (judged) projects for at least 3 consecutive years (minimum grades 9-11; this will be verified by Extension office).
2. Current High School Senior
 - a. Student to be enrolled in an accredited college, field of study not limited, or Trade school fall of 2026

To apply for scholarship:

Applicant must complete a Kathy Blackford Scholarship Application form and attach the following items:

1. A current high school transcript (class list for homeschoolers) - (scholarship selection is not based on grades)
2. Two (2) letters of recommendation. (NO family member)
 - a. One (1) from a current 4-H Advisor, or 4-H Committee member
 - b. One (1) from a Teacher, Academic Advisor, Guidance Counselor, Employer, Minister or other community leader
3. Priority will be given to individuals that did projects related to science, robotics, shooting sports, still life, camp counselors or attended 4-H camp.
4. Narrative 4-H Story ---- that shares **What have you learned from your still life, shooting sports, robotics or camp experience(s)?**
one page double spaced
5. Describe - one page double spaced
“Your Educational plan and field of study and designated occupation”
6. Application must be legible, additional pages are welcome.

Please complete application and attachments, put in sealed envelope and mail or deliver to:
OSU Extension Ashland County 110 Cottage Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805

Application is due April 1, 2026

No Late applications will be considered



2026 Kathy Blackford Scholarship Application



Name _____
First Middle Last

Address _____
Street City Zip Code

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

County of Residence _____ Date of Birth _____

Parents or Guardian's Names and phone number
Name(s) _____
Phone numbers _____

Parents or Guardian Address (if different than above) _____

School graduating from _____

4-H Club _____ Years Enrolled _____

4-H Advisor _____

What College or Trade school/credited training do you plan to attend. _____

Location _____

Study Major _____

Have you applied? yes no

Have you been accepted? yes no pending

When do you plan to attend college/trade school? _____

Applicant Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Advisor Signature _____

****NOTE - Project enrollment and Completion for 2023, 2024 and 2025 will be checked!!**

Page 1 ***(this page will be removed and application assigned a number.)

Deadline – April 1, 2026

Application # _____ (office use only)

