

Peace and Social Justice Scholarship Application

Sponsored by West Branch Friends Church

West Branch Friends Church (WBFC) is inviting applications for its annual Peace and Social Justice scholarship. This \$1,500 award is intended to encourage and support high school seniors in their understanding and practice of nonviolent means to build the tools for peace and eliminate the causes of injustice, poverty, intolerance and war.

Applications are due April 10, 2026 and may be submitted electronically to: westbranchfriendschurch@gmail.com or in printed form by mail to:

Peace and Social Concerns Committee
West Branch Friends Church
P.O. Box 153
West Branch, Iowa 52358

Applications include:

- Overview of scholarship eligibility, requirements, expectations and process
- General information about applicant
- Extracurricular activities and community involvement
- Essay
- Letters of recommendation

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must be a graduating senior, Class of 2025, who is from West Branch High School, Scattergood Friends School, a home school in the West Branch area or a family of someone who attends West Branch Friends Church. The scholarship can support higher education, or service and other post-high school endeavors.

Expectations

Applications will be assessed for their publicly demonstrated interest in and commitment to nonviolent conflict resolution or peace-building community involvement. Examples include, but are not limited to offering peer to peer support, supporting social causes such as disaster relief, food insecurity, political involvement for peaceful solutions, providing services and/or shelter for the needy, domestic violence interventions, support and outreach services, international exchange or cooperation, environmental preservation and support of immigrant/human rights.

Requirements & Process

1. Essay Applicants will complete application materials and submit a typed 600-word essay which demonstrates clear writing skills, support for nonviolent ideas and commitment shown to these. Whole essays or excerpts may be published in the WBFC newsletter, the West Branch Times or other publications as decided by the scholarship committee.
2. Recommendations One or two signed letters of recommendation are required noting the student’s motivation, commitment and accomplishments. These letters may be provided by teachers, community leaders, supervisors, pastors or anyone who has witnessed the involvement of the student.
3. Submission Applications are due April 10,2026 and may be submitted electronically to: westbranchfriendschurch@gmail.com or in printed form by mail to:
Peace and Social Concerns Committee
West Branch Friends Church
P.O. Box 153
West Branch, Iowa 52358

General Information

Full Name _____

Age _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Name of High School _____

High School Address _____

Name of Principal or Head of School _____

What are your plans after graduating?

How will you use this scholarship money?

Activities

Leadership positions and offices. Indicate school, church or community volunteer activities, nothing the name of the organization, the academic year(s) of involvement (9-12), position or office held, and approximate monthly time commitment. (Example: "The Bear" school newspaper, editor (11-12), 35 hours/month.)

Memberships and extracurricular activities. List organization, academic year(s) of involvement, monthly time commitment. (Example: Habitat for Humanity volunteer (11) 10 hours/month for 6 months, Cross Country (9-12) 50 hours/month for 3 months)

Honors and Awards. List by name and academic year any awards were received. (Example: National Honor Society (11-12)

Hobbies and Interests

Employment List names of employers, including family business/self-employment, full time/part time and hours worked. (Example: window washing, self-employed, summer part time (9-11) 10 hours/month.

Essay Instructions

Please write a 600-word essay explain how this scholarship will assist you in promoting a peaceful world. As you do, please answer at least one of these questions:

- What have you done to promote peace in your life, community and society?
- What do you plan to do with your future that will encourage peace and justice?
- What can an individual do to make this world a brighter place for everyone as well as encourage peace?
- In the quest for peace, conflict is inevitable. Please give personal examples of conflict you have faced (e.g., bullying, discrimination, injustice, violence) and how you productively addressed them.

The typed, 600-word essay will be judged on:

- Demonstrated understanding and basis of knowledge in use of nonviolent means working towards the elimination of the causes of injustice and war
- Ability to grasp the wide implication inherent in working for peace
- Insight, clarity of expression
- Organization of essay, effectiveness of style, adherence to format
- Originality of approach and treatment of the topic
- Citation of sources, giving credit to ideas and quotations

Letters of Recommendation Please include 1-2 letters of recommendation

I have completed the following portions of this application:

- General information
- Activities
- Essay
- Recommendations

Student's signature _____