



## **2026 Friends of the Olathe Public Library Curtis Gilmore Memorial Scholarship**

The name of this scholarship, to be awarded annually, will be the “Friends of the Olathe Public Library Curtis Gilmore Memorial Scholarship.” This scholarship honors Curtis Gilmore, who distinguished himself as an Olathe Public Library youth volunteer.

It is open to all graduating seniors who have completed 100 volunteer hours for the Olathe Public Library between 8th – 12th grades. (Service hours may begin the summer before entering 8th grade). This scholarship is sponsored by the Friends of the Olathe Public Library.

### **Rules**

#### **Eligibility:**

1. The applicant must be a senior who will graduate in May of the year the scholarship is awarded.
2. The applicant must have completed a minimum of 100 hours of volunteer service to the Olathe libraries from the summer before the applicant entered eighth grade through February 28, 2026.
3. Any applicant that has been dismissed from the volunteer program is ineligible.
4. The recipient may use the money at any school of higher learning: i.e., state, private or technical schools - all are acceptable.

#### **Type of Scholarship:**

1. The scholarship is not renewable.
2. This scholarship is awarded annually at the decision of the Friends of the Olathe Library Board of Directors.

#### **Amount of Scholarship:**

1. \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to qualified individuals.
2. Funds will be payable upon verification of enrollment in higher learning.

### **How to Apply:**

1. Complete the application form and essay.
2. Must have worked a minimum of 100 volunteer hours. The library will confirm completed hours after the application has been submitted.
3. Submit a typed essay of no more than 250 words on the topic **“Volunteering at the Library: What It Has Meant to Me.”**
4. Your name and/or the name of the library where you volunteered ***should not*** appear in the essay. No resumes or letters of recommendation should be submitted. *Failure to follow these rules will disqualify your application.*
5. Applicant must state on the application his/her school plans.
6. Application must be submitted to Julie Clark at the Indian Creek Library, 16100 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street, Olathe, Kansas 66062. It may be mailed, emailed (jclark@olathelibrary.org) or hand delivered, but must be received by Julie by **4:30 pm, Thursday, March 19, 2026.**

### **How Chosen:**

1. Essays will be read by a committee of three to five Friends board members who will choose the winner. The essay will be judged on content, grammar, punctuation, and creativity. Please carefully address the topic, **“Volunteering at the Library: What It Has Meant to Me.”**
2. The number of library volunteer hours worked and years completed will be a consideration as well.
3. Decision of the judges is final and absolute.
4. In April, the President of the Friends of the Library Board will contact the student(s) who are selected to receive the scholarship(s).