



Johnnie Mathias Scholarship for FFA Members

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to FFA members with aspirations to pursue a career in agriculture.

Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

- Graduating high school during the school year in which they apply
- A current member of their FFA chapter
- Enrolled/ing at a two or four year postsecondary institution to major in some area of agriculture
- The local agriculture teacher(s) of the program where the student is enrolled must be current members of KAAE

Scholarship Amount: \$500

Deadline to Apply: April 1st

Award Announcement: Early to mid-May

Scoring Criteria:

- GPA (unweighted on 4.0 scale): 20 points
- ACT/SAT Composite Score: 20 points
- Financial Need: 20 points
- FFA Participation: 20 points
- Essay: 50 points
- Letters of Recommendation: 15 points
- Overall Application Quality: 5 points

Scoring Process: A panel of teachers that do not have a student applying for a scholarship, nor are related to any of the applicants, will score the submissions. Applications will be evaluated using the rubric included in this document.

Application Submission: Applications must be completed using the online form, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#). This form may be edited after submission..

Questions about this scholarship should be directed to brandon.davis@education.ky.gov.

Application Components

Part I: Basic Student Information

Name, Mailing Address, Email, FFA Chapter

Confirmation of graduation status, FFA membership, and postsecondary plans

Part II: Academic and Financial Information

Unweighted GPA

Highest Composite Score on the ACT or SAT

Household Adjusted Gross Income

Part III: FFA Participation

Applicants will complete and upload the [FFA Participation Document](#) that lists the local, regional, state, and/or national FFA activities in which they have participated during their FFA membership. Only the single page FFA Participation document may be used for this component.

Applicants need to download a copy of the document before filling in their information.

Part IV: Essay

Applicants will submit an essay addressing, “**Why are you pursuing an agriculture career and why do you deserve a KAAE scholarship?**” The essay must be no longer than 500 words, use a font and size that are easily read, and be solely prepared by the applicant.

Part V: Letters of Recommendation

Secure three letters of recommendation from non-family members that can serve as a witness to the applicant’s character, leadership, community engagement, or any other qualities that support a worthiness to receive this scholarship. One of the letters must come from a teacher of agriculture.

Letters may be uploaded individually or as a single file.

Criteria	Point Value	Evaluation Standard		Points Awarded
Academics <i>Unweighted GPA based on 4.0 scale</i>	20	3.76 to 4.0 - 20 points 3.5 to 3.75 - 15 points 3.0 to 3.49 - 10 points 2.5 to 2.99 - 5 points Below 2.5 - 0 points		
Academics <i>ACT or SAT Composite</i>	20	<u>ACT Score</u> 30 and above - 20 points 25 to 29 - 15 points 20 to 24 - 10 points 17 to 19 - 5 points Below 17 - 0 points	<u>SAT Score</u> 1360 and above - 20 points 1200 to 1350 - 15 points 1030 to 1190 - 10 points 920 to 1020 - 5 points Below 920 - 0 points	
Financial Need <i>Adjusted Gross Household Income</i>	20	\$50,000 and below - 20 points \$50,001 to \$75,000 - 15 points \$75,001 to \$100,000 - 10 points \$100,001 to \$125,000 - 5 points Over \$125,000 - 2 points		
FFA Participation	20	20 or more activities - 20 points 15-19 activities - 15 points 10-14 activities - 10 points 5-9 activities - 5 points Less than 5 activities - 0 points		
Letters Of Reference	15	3 Letters submitted - 15 points 2 letters submitted - 10 points 1 letter submitted - 5 points		
Essay	50	<i>See pages 2 and 3 of rubric</i>		
Overall Application Quality	5			
Total Points	150			

	Superior 8-10	Proficient 6-7	Satisfactory 4-5	Limited 2-3	Unsatisfactory 0-1	Score
Organization 10 points	Well-structured introduction with strong, sharply focused thesis statement	Well-structured introduction with clear thesis	Properly structured introduction with satisfactory thesis	Poorly structured introduction with unclear thesis	Introduction is incomplete, ineffective, or missing. No apparent thesis.	
	Sharply focused topic sentences and paragraphs that are closely related to thesis	Topic sentences and paragraphs are clearly related to thesis	Moderately effective topic sentences and paragraphs logically related to thesis	Ineffective topic sentences and paragraphs that are not logically related to thesis	Topic sentences and paragraphs are irrelevant or missing	
	Well-constructed and clear conclusion that strongly reaffirms thesis	Sufficiently effective conclusion which reaffirms thesis and ties together main ideas and facts	Somewhat effective conclusion which restates thesis, but does not fully tie together main ideas and facts	Incompletely developed conclusion which fails to effectively tie together main ideas and facts	Absent, incomplete, or unfocused conclusion	
	Superior 27-30	Proficient 23-26	Satisfactory 19-22	Limited 15-18	Unsatisfactory 0-14	Score
Content Idea Development 30 points	Interesting and complete explanation of topic, with specific, accurate, and relevant information.	Content is accurate and relevant, with sufficient evidence to adequately explain topic	Explanation of topic is satisfactory, with mostly sufficient evidence, but mostly general. More detail needed. Some factual errors	Partial or incomplete explanation of topic, with insufficient evidence and inaccuracies	Inadequate explanation of topic with inadequate or missing evidence and many factual errors	
	Fully developed body paragraphs that clearly and effectively support thesis with three arguments	Well-developed body paragraphs sufficiently support thesis with three arguments	Body paragraphs that satisfactorily support thesis but could be more developed; only two arguments	Body paragraphs that provide limited and inadequate support of thesis; only one argument	Body paragraphs that do not support thesis	

	Superior 8-10	Proficient 6-7	Satisfactory 4-5	Limited 2-3	Unsatisfactory 0-1	Score
Mechanics 10 points	Very clear and easily understood, with few, if any, grammatical errors	Sufficiently clear and understandable, with few grammatical errors	Mostly clear and understandable, with some grammatical errors	Somewhat clear and difficult to understand, with many errors	Unclear and difficult to understand, with multiple errors	
	Paragraphs flow smoothly, and transitions between sentences and/or paragraphs are seamless and effective	Sentences are sufficiently complete, with only a few structural errors. Transitions are mostly effective	Sentences are mostly complete, with some structural errors. Transitions are satisfactory.	Sentences are sometimes incomplete, with more than a few structural errors. Transitions are ineffective.	Sentences are often incomplete, with many structural errors. Transitions are missing.	
Total Essay Score <i>(transfer to page 1 of rubric)</i>						