



ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! 2026 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST



SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS:

The **Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs** is proud to announce the **2026 Essay Scholarship**, an inspiring opportunity for graduating Oregon high school seniors. All eligible applicants must be Oregon residents.

One exceptional student will be awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** to support their college tuition at any accredited institution of higher education, in any field of study. This scholarship is designed to encourage thoughtful reflection, academic excellence, and a commitment to personal growth.

ESSAY TOPIC:

The theme for this year's competition is **"Growth Through Service."**

Applicants are invited to share meaningful insights and personal perspectives on how service—whether to individuals, communities, or causes—shapes character, builds resilience, and creates positive change.

CONTEST LOCATION AND DATE:

The winning student will be announced during the **state contest**, held virtually on **April 25, 2026**. We look forward to celebrating the voices, ideas, and achievements of Oregon's outstanding young writers.

CONTEST INFORMATION:

We welcome students to submit their best work—**only original essays will be accepted**. Submissions will be evaluated with care and attention using the following criteria:

- **Ideas and Content – 25%**
Clear, well-developed main ideas supported by thoughtful details.
- **Organization – 15%**
A logical and engaging beginning, middle, and end.
- **Voice – 15%**
A genuine expression of the writer's thoughts, feelings, and perspective.
- **Word Choice – 15%**
Effective, vivid, and meaningful language.
- **Sentence Fluency – 15%**
Sentences that vary in length and structure create a smooth and enjoyable reading experience.
- **Conventions – 15%**
Correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation throughout.

AWARDS

First, second, and third-place winners will be selected based on the judges' evaluations. If no entry meets the required standards, an award may not be granted.

The first-place winner must notify the Chairman by **October 1st** of the school year following the award to confirm the college or university they will attend. If this notification is not received by the deadline, the scholarship will be forfeited and offered to the second-place recipient.

ESSAY FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Essays must be no more than **1,500 words**.
- Essays should be **typed, double-spaced**, in **12 pt. font**, with **one-inch margins** on all sides.
- Please include a **word count** at the end of your essay.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY:

Essays, along with a completed and signed **official entry form**, should be emailed to the contest organizer, **Arlene Steenkolk**, at **arlene.steenkolk@gmail.com**. All submissions must be received by **April 6, 2026**.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **April 6, 2026:** Application form and essay due
- **April 25, 2026, at 2:00 PM (Zoom):** Virtual Fine Arts Contest and announcement of winners
- We look forward to reading your thoughtful, creative, and inspiring essays!



OREGON FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
2026 VIOLET LANG ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP
FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM



Name of Applicant:	Phone Number:
Mailing Address:	Email Address:
Parent/Guardian Name:	Parent/Guardian Phone Number:
Name of High School:	High School Office Phone Number:

Contest Checklist

- ☐ I understand that the **deadline to submit my entry form and essay is April 6, 2026.**
- ☐ I understand that my essay must follow the designated topic, be no more than 1,500 words, and be **typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1-inch margins**, including a word count at the end.
- ☐ I have read, understand, and agree to follow all eligibility requirements, and I certify that all information I have provided is accurate.

Name of Applicant:	Signature of Applicant:	Date:
Name of Parent/Guardian:	Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:

Send this signed form and your essay to:
Arlene Steenkolk at arlene.steenkolk@gmail.com
<http://www.oregongfwc.org/scholarships.html>