



**THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AND LEE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.
PRESENTS THE 2025 OPEN EXHIBITOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP**

The *Open Exhibitor Youth Scholarship* is sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair Association, Inc. This scholarship is open to current high school seniors who have participated at least 4 years in any division of the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc. through the 2023 year. The Board of Trustees is proud of our area exhibitors and feels strongly about supporting our youth, while creating awareness and promoting agriculture and education in our district.

A total of \$2,500.00 in scholarship funds is available to be awarded and distributed for the Fall term of the year qualifying.

Award of Scholarship: A minimum of \$500.00 up to a maximum of \$2,500.00 is awarded to qualifying applicants, based on evaluation scores. Scholarship funds are paid directly to the school upon proper documentation of school registration and course selection.

Eligibility Requirements: The applicant must be a ***current high school senior***, have been an active exhibitor involved in any Open Division of the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair, through the 2023 year, and hold a 3.0 GPA. This includes seniors who are concurrently dual enrolled in a college.

Application: Completed applications must include three (3) formal letters of recommendation and the student's most recent semester-ending report card – the report card must show the students GPA. Recommendation letters should be from diverse backgrounds. Example: 4-H, School, Business or Community Leader.

Award Criteria: **See Page 2 of application for specifics and clarification for each category.**

- 15% - Years, range of entries, and accomplishments in the Open Division (i.e. Creative Living entries, Talent Show, etc.) of the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair, through the 2023 Fair Year.
- 10% - High School extracurricular activities throughout High School, by year.
- 25%- Essay – 300 word minimum – **relating to this scholarship.**
- 25% - Community Involvement and Volunteer Service Hours
- 20% - Thoroughness, completeness, and neatness of application.

Evaluation: Applications are evaluated by the Scholarship Evaluation Committee based on Criteria provided. The non-weighted GPA will be added to the score to determine final points. All decisions are final.

Due Date: April 14, 2025. Applications received after April 14, 2025, will not be accepted.

Email complete application packet to: franc@swflcfair.com

**Please review your application prior to submittal for thoroughness, completeness, and neatness.
This page does not need to be submitted with your Scholarship Application - this page is for you to keep.**

Applicant # _____
Date of Receipt: _____
(Office use only)

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AND LEE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.
2025 OPEN EXHIBITOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Years of Fair Participation _____

School you currently attend: _____

College or trade school you will be attending: _____

Anticipated College Major or Trade: _____

Provide your high school grade point average. A copy of your most recent semester-ending Report Card must be included with this application. The Report Card must show your GPA.

High School - GPA: _____ Weighted GPA: _____

I have read all information on Page 1 of the applications and certify that it is correct and filled out completely.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Scholarship/Award Criteria:

Below are the criteria to be considered for the *Open Exhibitor Youth Scholarship*. Information must be submitted in a typed font of your choice, but no smaller than 12 pt. The application packet should contain a maximum of six (6) single sided pages – not including the two pages of the application packet. Your packet must be all one document, in order of requirements including cover page, recommendation letters, all answers and each page should be numbered. Margins should be a minimum of ¾” on all four edges. You will also need to include a senior picture for promotion of awards if you are awarded scholarship money. Any incomplete packet will NOT be accepted, so please make sure that you have included all of the required information in the format given.

1. Provide information on your number of years, the range of your Fair entries and participation in any Open Division (Creative Living, Horticulture, Talent Shows, etc.) of the **Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair, through the 2023 year.** (15%)
2. List and describe extracurricular **High School Activities** – including leadership roles, awards, and honors. Extracurricular Activities would include, but is not limited to high school clubs, high school teams, high school committees, and positions/offices held. (10%)
3. Essay – 300 word minimum – write an essay about yourself, your experiences, and accomplishments in any Open Division of the **Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair, through the 2023 year.** **Essay must be related to this specific Scholarship (25 points). A maximum of 10 points will be deducted if the essays are ‘copied’ and do NOT meet these criteria.**
4. List and describe your involvement and how many years in any community wide events you helped with (civic clubs, church, special events, etc.). This should include a minimum of ten (10) hours of community volunteer service – **not 4-H or school related.** (25%)
5. Thoroughness, completeness, and neatness of application. This includes proper grammar, punctuation, formatting and the complete packet requirements laid out above including your **formal** recommendation letters & report card. (20%)

Complete Applications are due Monday, April 14, 2025. Applications received after the April 14, 2025 deadline, will not be accepted. All applications are due by email to franc@swflcfair.com

I understand it is my responsibility to confirm all required paperwork is received by the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair Association, Inc. I hereby affirm that I meet the eligibility requirements for the *Open Exhibitor Youth Scholarship* and hereby formally request consideration of my application by the Scholarship Evaluation Committee. I understand the Scholarship Evaluation Committee of the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair Association, Inc. has my permission to review the academic records I have submitted in support of my application for this scholarship.

Signature of Applicant

Date

