

**INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS SEEKING A SCHOLARSHIP FROM  
THE JOEL L. GERDES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Enclosed is the scholarship application you requested from the Joel L. Gerdes Scholarship Fund ("Fund"). The Fund is provided through the generosity of Joel L. Gerdes, a graduate of Sterling High School. The Fund awards scholarships to eligible high school seniors and graduates of Sterling High School, Newman Central High School or Rock Falls High School to provide them with the financial assistance needed to commence or continue their studies at a post-secondary education in the field of their choice at a Private or Public Trade Professional School, Certificate Program, junior college, public/private college or university located in the State of Illinois and according to the specific terms and conditions. Scholarships are available only to full-time undergraduate students and are awarded on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, religion, or gender. Scholarships are renewable annually.

Applicants must meet all the following standards and conditions to be eligible or remain eligible for the Scholarship:

- A. I am a graduate or will graduate from Sterling High School, Newman Central High School, or Rock Falls High School.
- B. My seventh semester unweighted cumulative grade point average as determined by the administration of Sterling High School is between 2.5 and 3.5 on a 4-point scale, in the preceding academic year and the determination by the Sterling High School shall be final and conclusive.
- C. More than 1 scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$ TBD \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. I understand if I am awarded a scholarship, all payment shall be made directly to the trade school, college, or university in two installments, one for the Fall semester and one for the Spring semester. Scholarships may be used only to pay for the following expenses incurred by the student: (1) tuition and fees required for the enrollment or attendance at the trade school or college, and (2) fees, activity pass, parking permits, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses of instruction.
- E. I understand that to qualify and remain eligible for the scholarship, I must attend a private or public trade or professional school, certificate program college, private or public junior college or private or public university physically located in the State of Illinois, and I will not receive a scholarship or my scholarship will be cancelled if I attend a trade school, college or university not physically located in the State of Illinois.
- F. I understand I must enroll as a full-time student and maintain full-time student status as determined by the trade school, college, or university I attend and to retain the scholarship, I must maintain full-time student status at all times. I acknowledge that if I am not a full-time student at any time, this scholarship will be rescinded. All refunds on withdrawal from classes will be returned to Midland States Bank.
- G. I understand if I make an application after I have graduated and am attending a trade school or an eligible college, I can only receive a scholarship if my cumulative grade point average at college as determined by my college or university is not less than 2.5 on a 4-point scale in the preceding academic year and the determination by the college or university shall be final and conclusive.
- H. I may not be awarded the scholarship more than four successive years and that I may not receive more than two scholarship payments per year.

Best regards,

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF JOEL L. GERDES  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**JOELL L. GERDES**  
**SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION**  
**SUBMIT APPLICATION BY APRIL 15, 2026**  
**TO MIDLAND STATES BANK**  
**Sterling IL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Your Permanent Address

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Area/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am a U.S. Citizen    Yes    No   

If not, I am a citizen of \_\_\_\_\_

2. HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR APPLICANTS:

List high school sports or extracurricular activities in which you have participated, stating position or office attained, if any, or attach a separate resume:

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3. List of employers of jobs held: \_\_\_\_\_

4. List of Community Service activities: \_\_\_\_\_

5. My SAT or ACT scores were: \_\_\_\_\_

6. ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR OFFICIAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

7. Attach to this Application a letter written by you describing to the Selection Committee why you should be awarded a scholarship and general information regarding your future plans and lifetime goals.

8. COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY: List the Trade School, Certificate Program, Junior college, post-secondary college or university you are currently attending or will be attending in the upcoming school year. Attach a separate page if you are considering more than one school.

School Name

State Zip Code Admissions Office Phone Number

By signing this Application, I acknowledge and understand that the following restrictions and rules shall apply to the Scholarship and the following rules that will apply, if I am awarded the Scholarship:

- A. I must be a graduate or will graduate from Sterling High School, Newman Central High School, or Rock Falls High School.
- B. My seventh semester unweighted cumulative grade point average must between 2.5 and 3.5 on a 4-point scale,
- C. More than 1 scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. If awarded a scholarship, the payment shall be made directly to the college or university in two installments, one for the Fall semester and one for the Spring semester, Refunds are returned to Midland States Bank.
- E. To qualify and remain eligible for the scholarship, I must attend a Trade School, Certificate Program, either Private or Public college or university or a junior college physically located in the State of Illinois,
- F. I must enroll as a full-time student and maintain full-time student status at all times as required for the program or certificate career program enrolled in. If I am not a full-time student, my scholarship will be rescinded. All refunds for withdrawal from classes are returned to Midland States Bank.
- G. I may re-apply while attending an eligible college or university, but my cumulative grade point average at college must between 2.5 and 3.5 on a 4-point scale, and
- H. I may not be awarded the scholarship more than four (4) successive years and may not receive more than two (2) scholarships per year.

Under the penalties of perjury, I do solemnly affirm that all information provided pertaining to this application, herein stated or provided separately, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Although confidentiality of information provided is expected of the Foundation, I hereby authorize the Foundation to investigate in any manner which it, in its discretion, deems necessary to determine the accuracy of the statements made in this application and that I continue to be eligible, I agree to notify the Foundation in writing of any change in the information stated in or provided with this application. I agree to make this notification immediately, in writing. I understand and agree that failure to notify the Foundation of any change in the information provided or if I no longer meet the qualifications in Paragraph 6 may obligate me to return scholarship money granted to me by the Foundation.

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**Signature of Applicant**

**Signature of Parent or Guardian**

Required if Applicant has not  
attained Age 18