



2026 Jewel Darst Memorial Scholarship Application

Applicant Eligibility and Requirements:

- Must be currently enrolled in a school located in Atoka County.
- Must be a graduating high school student in the 2026 school year.
- A completed scholarship application form is required.
- Must submit a 750 - 1,000-word essay response to one of the provided essay prompts.

Essay Requirements:

Please choose one of the essay prompts below and submit your 750 - 1,000-word essay as a separate document with your Scholarship Application. Essays can be returned to your guidance counselor or by emailing them directly to the Atoka Area Chamber of Commerce at info@atokaokchamber.com with the subject heading "Scholarship Essay."

- Essays must be typed in a standard font (Times New Roman or Arial), size 12, double-spaced. *Electronic submissions must be in .doc, .docx, or PDF format.*
- The essay must be the original work of the applicant.
- All essays must be submitted by **Thursday, April 30th, 2026** at 11:59 PM CST. Late submissions will not be considered.

Essay Prompts:

Please submit an essay response to one (1) of the following questions:

1. Every community needs people willing to step forward and make a difference. Describe a time when you showed leadership in your school, family, or community. What did you learn from the experience, and how will it influence the way you lead in the future?
2. Rural communities like the Atoka Area face unique challenges but also unique opportunities. What do you believe is the biggest opportunity for small towns in the next 10–20 years, and how can young people help shape that future?
3. If you could create one new program, event, or initiative that would improve the Atoka Area, what would it be? Explain the need it would address and the impact it could have on the community.

Determination & Key Dates:

- The Stronger Atoka Foundation Board will determine the recipients of scholarships. Winners will be notified no later than May 7th, 2026.
- A certificate will be presented to the winner by a member of the Stronger Atoka Foundation Board at their high school honors ceremony (if applicable).
- Winners will be announced at the Atoka Area Chamber of Commerce General Membership Meeting & Luncheon on June 4th, 2026 at 12:00 PM CST and showcased in the Atoka County Times newspaper along with a picture with the Foundation Board & the Chamber Board. *Please dress in professional (business-casual) attire for the picture.*

PO Box 778 | Atoka, OK 74525
(580) 889-2410 | info@atokaokchamber.com
www.atokaokchamber.com



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Student's Full Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: ____ GPA: ____ Age: ____

Student's Contact Information:

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

What College or Vocational Program are you considering or planning to attend in the fall?

Explain your future plans (i.e. focus of study, major or Vocational/Technical field):

Please include a 750 – 1,000-word Essay with this application:

Essay Prompt (please check one): 1 2 3

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUCCESS!

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