

Kirschbaum-Fitzsimmons

Scott County Democratic Party Scholarship

PURPOSE

The Scott County Democratic Party, Iowa, is announcing its annual scholarship in honor of the lives, work, and memory of the late **KATHY KIRSCHBAUM** and **KAREN FITZSIMMONS**. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage participation in community politics.

KATHY KIRSCHBAUM became the first female alderman of Davenport in 1967 and later became the first elected female mayor of Davenport, serving as mayor from 1972 to 1976. She also served as a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention and was an early champion of the city's bike paths.

KAREN FITZSIMMONS was the first female county auditor in Scott County, Iowa. She served honorably as Scott County auditor from 1976 to 2008, bringing professionalism and prestige to the office. She won her first election at the age of 27 and won re-election seven times. Fitzsimmons was very civic-minded. She was active with the Scott County Democratic Party and in the presidential campaigns of Howard Dean, Al Gore, Barack Obama, and other Democratic hopefuls.

ELIGIBILITY

The \$1000 Kirschbaum-Fitzsimmons Scott County Democrats Scholarship will be awarded to one or more graduating Scott County high school senior(s) who meets the following criteria:

- A. Presents evidence of acceptance to and eventual enrollment in an accredited post-secondary educational program in the United States. Eligible programs include: 4-year colleges, community colleges, or vocational/technical/trade schools.
- B. Graduates during the 2026 -2027 academic year from a high school in Scott County with at least a 2.75 (out of 4.00) high school grade point average, and has not been enrolled as a full-time college or higher education program student prior to applying for this scholarship. Applicants may be enrolled in dual-enrollment and/or college credit courses while they are in high school.
- C. Presents two letters of recommendation (described in How To Apply section).
- D. Agrees to report back to the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee via written communication or in person regarding their progress in the post-secondary educational program.
- E. Completes and submits the scholarship application form and supporting documents by the application date (see Timeline section).
- F. Obtains permission of a parent/legal guardian to participate in the scholarship competition and to reveal the winner's name in a press release.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Direct any questions about the scholarship and application process to Toby Paone at info@scottcountydems.org

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HOW TO APPLY

Complete and return the attached **application form** and the **required documents**.

READ CAREFULLY. Applications that do not include the required documentation will be disqualified.

1. High school transcript.
2. One letter of recommendation from someone, other than a family member, that confirms your involvement in Democratic Party activities.
3. A letter of recommendation from either a high school teacher, guidance counselor, or principal.
4. A typewritten essay of 200 words or fewer that describes your volunteer, extra-curricular and Democratic Party activities and why these activities are important to you. Democratic Party activities include, but are not limited to: 1) working for Democratic candidates, 2) volunteering at Democratic political events, 3) advocating for issues supported by the Democratic Party, and 4) participating in organizations, meetings, trainings, caucuses, conventions, and other activities sponsored by the Democratic Party.
5. Submission of the completed application via **U.S. mail** by the due date.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROCESS

The Scholarship committee will review all application materials submitted for the scholarship. The top contenders may be asked to appear before the Scholarship Committee.

The Scott County Democratic Central Committee will award a one-thousand-dollar (\$1000) scholarship to the selected applicant OR applicants during the spring of 2027. The scholarship funds may be used for all post-secondary school-related expenses during the 2027-28 academic year.

TIMELINE

The deadline for postmarking the application is **MARCH 15, 2027**.

The scholarship winner will be notified by at least **APRIL 16, 2027**, and presentation of the scholarship award will follow.

POSTMARK by MARCH 15, 2027, the application form, and all documentation mailed to scholarship chair:

Scott County Democratic Party
% Toby Paone
PO Box 2009
Davenport, IA 52809-2009

**Kirschbaum-Fitzsimmons
Scott County Democratic Party Scholarship**

APPLICATION FORM

STUDENT _____
(LAST name) (FIRST name) (M.I.)

MAILING ADDRESS _____
(Number and street or P.O. Box)

(city) (state) (zip code)

PHONE NUMBER Area Code _____ Number _____
(Phone number where we can reach parent/guardian)

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
(Student or parent's email address)

HIGH SCHOOL _____
(School name)

(High school location – city, state, zip code)

High School GRADUATION DATE _____

POST SECONDARY SCHOOL/COLLEGE

(name of college or program student plans to attend after high school)

(location of college/program – city and state)

What do you PLAN TO STUDY? _____

Date when CLASSES START: _____

CONSENT (Signer agrees to student's participation in scholarship competition and use of winner's name in press release)

(Signature of student) (Date)

(Signature of parent/guardian) (Date)