

Media Fellowship House Scholarship Program 2025/2026

Marie Whitaker Scholarship for Juniors

Thank you for registering for our annual scholarship program. To be considered for this award, please submit a short essay or creative project by the **deadline of February 28th, 2026**. A list of choice prompts and directions on the submission process are listed below.

Please choose **ONE** of the following prompts and respond with either:

- A 1–2 page written essay,
- A recorded video or audio response (no longer than 5 minutes), or
- A visual project (artwork, photo series, or digital media).

If you choose a video, audio, or visual response, please also include a short paragraph (4–6 sentences) explaining your project and how it connects to the prompt. (*See question below.*)

PROMPTS
1. Leadership in Action: Reflect on a time when you were inspired by someone who spoke out and took action against injustice. What injustice did you observe? What leadership qualities stood out to you? How did this inspire you to speak out or take action on issues that matter to you?
2. The Power of Words: Throughout history, words have sparked change and inspired action. Think of a quote, speech, or lesson from a politician, philosopher, teacher, writer, or another role model that resonated with you. How have these words shaped your values and inspired you to live with purpose?
3. Addressing Inequality: Identify one form of inequality you've observed in your school or community. What recommendation would you give to teachers, administrators, or your peers to address this inequality and support marginalized groups to feel more included, celebrated, and understood?
4. Advice to a Ninth Grader (or Your Younger Self) As a high school junior, what advice would you offer to an incoming ninth grader—or to your younger self—to help them feel accepted and confident? Share a personal challenge you've overcome and the lessons you learned. What do you wish you had known earlier in your journey? Write a 1-2 page letter addressed to a ninth grader or to your younger self.

REQUIRED for Creative Submissions: If you choose to create a visual, audio, or video project, please include a short paragraph (4–6 sentences) responding to the following question:

What message or story were you hoping to express through your project, and how does it connect to the scholarship prompt you selected?

GUIDANCE ON USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (A.I.)

ASSESSMENT & AUTHENTICITY

We want to hear **your voice**—your ideas, your experiences, and your reflections. A.I. tools may be helpful for organizing thoughts or proofreading, but your submission should represent **your own original thinking and creativity**. Trust in your abilities and share from your perspective.

If you are selected as a finalist, our committee looks forward to connecting with you to discuss your submission and learn more about your inspiration and process.

If you used A.I. in any way (for brainstorming, editing, or research), please include a brief note (2–3 sentences) explaining how you used it and how the final submission reflects your own ideas.

ABOUT MEDIA FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

Media Fellowship House was founded in 1944 by four women of different races who wanted to promote fellowship and understanding by creating a space for a diverse community to come together. Media Fellowship House has continued the work of our founders' mission for 80 years by creating programs, organizing coalitions, and facilitating conversations that promote diversity and understanding. To learn more, visit: www.mediafellowshiphouse.org

ABOUT THE AWARD

Named in honor of a founding member of Media Fellowship House, this scholarship opportunity for high school juniors encourages self-reflection and challenges students to consider the importance of speaking out and taking action against injustice in order to build a stronger community. These are the core principles that Media Fellowship House was built upon in 1944 and the values we strive to instill in our youth today. **Three high school juniors** will be selected to receive a **\$500 scholarship** to support with application fees related to their post-secondary planning.

Submission Process: Visit mediafellowshiphouse.org/scholarship to submit your essay or project through our online form. Or you can email scholarship@mediafellowshiphouse.org and include your name, grade, and school on your essay/project and in your email message.

Before submitting your essay or project, take the time to review it carefully. We encourage you to check for spelling and grammar errors and consider sharing your work with a trusted mentor for feedback. Thoughtful editing and revision will help ensure your submission represents your best effort.

Deadline for Submission: February 28, 2026

Formats accepted:

For Short Essay Options:

- **Length:** 1-2 pages
- **Line Spacing:** 1.5 spacing
- **Font Size:** 11pt
- **File Types accepted as attachments by email:** .doc, .docx, or .pdf

For Creative Video Projects:

- **Video Project Length:** 3-5 minutes
- **File Types accepted as attachments by email:** MP4, .mov, or link to youtube post (or similar)

For Creative Visual Projects:

- **1-2 pages or up to 3 image designs**
- **File Types accepted as attachments by email:** .pdf, .jpg or .png

Decision Process: Submissions will be reviewed based on:

- **Authenticity of voice and reflection**
- **Creativity and originality of ideas**
- **Clarity, organization, and focus**

The top three, scoring highest, will be selected to receive a scholarship. Awards will be announced by April 15 and all scholarship recipients will be recognized at our Annual Award Ceremony held in May 2026.

Questions? Please contact Amy Komarnicki, Executive Director, 610-565-0434, x102 or amy@mediafellowshiphouse.org