

2021 JOHN WEIR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

About the Scholarship

The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (Ann Arbor CIL) awards the annual John Weir Academic Scholarship to outstanding students with disabilities. One-time scholarships up to \$4000.

Eligibility

Eligible students for the John Weir Scholarship must:

- Have a significant disability of any kind – for example, physical, visual, developmental, cognitive, hearing, learning, emotional, or other;
- Live in Washtenaw, Livingston, or Monroe County, Michigan; and
- Plan to attend or be starting the first two years of a 2- or 4-year college, university or a trade school program

Honoring John Weir

When my brother, John Weir, acquired his spinal cord injury (SCI) in 1964, the atmosphere was different for people with disabilities than it is today. The medical field kept people alive with SCIs, but society offered little in terms of satisfying futures. John was a pioneer in many ways. His ability to inspire practical help instead of pity was one of his gifts. While in the hospital after his surgery, he graduated from Ann Arbor's Pioneer High School. Later, he became the first severely disabled person to go to Eastern Michigan University. In 1976, he helped found the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (CIL). At the time, CILs were a new idea designed to provide resources to people who were disabled and to assist in ways that facilitated a more active life.

John remained an active pioneer until his death in 1985. ~ **Lou Weir**

Selection Process

The John Weir Selection Committee reviews each application received. Candidates must also describe a community involvement or volunteer experience they had in the past two years in their essay to be considered eligible. Scholarships will be awarded in summer of 2021.

Questions?

Please contact Anna Dusbiber, LLMSW, Ann Arbor CIL Youth Services Program Manager, at (734) 971-0277 x 17 or anna@aacil.org

**Please see application questions and instructions on the next page.*

Application Instructions

- 1) Fill in (by yourself or with the assistance of another person) this application form.
- 2) On a separate sheet of paper, answer each essay question in 300 words or less in essay/ paragraph format.
- 3) Enclose one letter of recommendation from a significant person in your life who is not a family member (teacher, counselor, boss, mentor, etc.).
- 4) Obtain transcript, Official or Unofficial (if current or previous college, university, or trade school student)
- 5) Mail application, reference letter, transcript and essay questions 1-4 to: **Ann Arbor CIL, John Weir Scholarship, Attn: Anna Dusbiber, LLMSW, 3941 Research Park Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. Completed application materials MUST be postmarked by Monday, July 28th, 2021.**

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Your Telephone #: _____ Your Email Address: _____

School attended most recently: _____ Grade Point Average: _____
(high school, college, university, trade school)

County in Which You Live (Circle One): Washtenaw Monroe Livingston

Name of person submitting reference letter: _____ High School Telephone # (if applicable): _____

Names of colleges, universities, or trade schools to which you have applied (If you are a High School or Transfer Student) _____

Which one(s) have accepted you? _____

Please answer each of the following questions in paragraph essay format. Please view this as an opportunity to “sell yourself” to the Selection Committee so let your personality shine through. Answers must be typed (either by you or with the assistance of someone else) into this form or provided in a separate document and mailed to the Ann Arbor CIL, 3941 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, Attn: Anna Dusbiber.

1. Describe your school-related and/or extracurricular activities from the past two years. Be sure to include volunteer work and community service, if any, and what you learned along the way. (300 words or less)
2. What accomplishment(s) are you most proud of and why? (300 words or less)
3. What is your disability and how has it impacted your life inside and outside of school? How do you embrace your disability? (300 words or less)
4. What are your hopes and dreams for your future? (ie. Educational or career goals) (300 words or less)