



GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS (GFWC ILLINOIS)

2026 Arthur Grant Smith **DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP** Application (minimum \$1,500 award)

Applications and all materials must be mailed in ONE sealed envelope, postmarked by March 15, 2026.

Send to: Judy Rader, GFWC Illinois Scholarship Chair, 132 11th Street, Lincoln IL 62656

Examples of degrees include but are not limited to Performance, Sound/Lighting, Costume Design, Directing, Cinematography, Film/Video Production, Playwriting, and Stagecraft.

Student Name _____ Birth Date _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____
Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

High School Graduation Date _____ Cumulative High School GPA _____ / _____

Anticipated Graduation Date (college, university, vocational school) _____

School you will attend in Fall Semester 2026 _____

School Mailing Address _____
Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Major _____ Minor _____

If current college/university/vocational student: Cumulative GPA _____ / _____

The following items **MUST be included in the application packet**

1. Resumé with dates of participation. Include the following:
 - a. Extracurricular activities
 - b. Volunteer activities
 - c. Leadership positions
 - d. Detailed drama/theater background: performances, auditions, private lessons, courses, etc.
2. What are your ambitions and goals for the next 5 years? (250 word maximum)
3. GFWC is a service organization. What does service and volunteering mean to you?
How do you demonstrate your commitment to service? (250 word maximum)
4. Transcripts: High school (include ACT/SAT scores if taken), college/university/vocational transcripts.
5. Two letters of recommendation from a teacher, coach, advisor, boss, or other professional source.
Please note: Recommendations from family or friends will disqualify the applicant.
6. Performance: digital copies (flash drive) of 3 performances not to exceed a total of 15 minutes. Solo performances are preferred. Include the show and character names.
7. If not performance: include 3 descriptions and images of theater involvement, set creations, playwriting, etc.
Include the show and character names as applicable.

NOTE: Materials submitted with the application will NOT be returned.

I attest the application materials are my own and I accept the terms of the scholarship application:

Student Signature _____ Date _____



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GFWC MISSION STATEMENT

GFWC is a philanthropic organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. This year, GFWC Illinois will award scholarships to students pursuing degrees in the arts, civic engagement, drama, education, environmental studies, health & wellness, music, and vocational studies.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- Pursuing a related major or minor in the selected field of study listed on the scholarship application.
- Must attend a community college, college, university, or vocational school physically located in the state of Illinois during the Fall 2026 semester.
- Must be a graduating high school senior, current college/university/vocational student, and/or an adult returning to school.
- Must be a resident of the state of Illinois.

SUBMISSION

Applications and all materials must be mailed in ONE sealed envelope, postmarked no later than **March 15, 2026.**

Materials that are late or incomplete will not be considered.

Mail to:

Judy Rader
Attn: GFWC Scholarship Committee
132 11th Street, Lincoln, IL 62656

DISQUALIFICATION

- Failure to meet eligibility requirements
- Late or incomplete application
- Letters of recommendation from family or friends

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Applications will be reviewed by a scholarship committee. The minimum award is \$1,500. Scholarship **winners** will be notified by April 15th via email and/or postal mail. Winners will also be posted on the GFWC Illinois website.

If selected to receive a scholarship, the student will be required to send a letter of acceptance from the school the student will attend in the Fall 2026 semester. When winners are notified, complete information and the federation address will be included. Checks will be mailed and made payable directly to the college, university, or vocational school.

Please email **scholarshipsifwc@gmail.com** with questions.

Communication will only occur between the scholarship committee and the applicant.