

Student Name: _____

You qualify for this! Deadline: Friday September 25th, 2026



Youth Salute

\$131,000 in Scholarships & Awards!





CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP

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171 Moore Drive Lexington, Kentucky 40503 (859) 276-2040

47th Annual “YOUTH SALUTE”

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This year, the Central Kentucky Council on Youth Leadership, will sponsor the 47th annual “Youth Salute” in cooperation with the National Council on Youth Leadership. The purpose of this program is to honor high school juniors in your community who maintain a high scholastic average and have demonstrated leadership ability.

In order to be eligible for this recognition, students must:

1. Be a high school junior (senior class of 2028).
2. Have at least a cumulative 3.0 G.P.A. (unweighted 4.0 scale) through their sophomore year. (Any student who attains a 3.0 G.P.A. by the end of the fall semester of their junior year may submit a late application by January 15th, 2027)
3. Have held or currently hold TWO LEADERSHIP ROLES to which they were chosen by their peers or an adult leader within the past two years in school, religious or community sponsored organizations.

Students must participate in each of the following activities:

1. Completion of the online Application Form.
2. Be photographed by Holifield Photography for school banner and online media recognition.
3. Attendance at the Leadership Program & Awards Ceremony - Sunday May 2nd, 2027

Co-sponsored by: Asbury University, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Eastern Kentucky University, Georgetown College, Midway University and Transylvania University.

Leadership Program & Awards Ceremony

An exciting leadership program will be held in cooperation with several central Kentucky colleges/universities to allow students to interact with other youth leaders. The “Youth Salute” awards ceremony will be held on the same day. See below for available scholarships & awards. **College scholarships are selected by each college/university*:**



\$122,320 in scholarships

Five \$4,000 scholarships from Asbury University
Five \$4,000 scholarships from Eastern Kentucky University
Five \$4,000 scholarships from Georgetown College
Five \$4,000 scholarships from Midway University
Five \$4,000 scholarships from Transylvania University

Five Half Tuition Scholarships (valued at \$4752)
from Bluegrass Community and Technical College

Awards selected by the “Youth Salute” Scholarships and Awards Committee*:

\$500 scholarship

One \$500 scholarship from Holifield Photography

\$500 scholarship

One \$500 scholarship from Class 101

\$2,396 in courses

Four ACT Preparation Courses valued at \$599 each from Class 101

\$1000 in awards

Five \$100 leadership awards from Central Bank & Trust Co.

Five \$100 leadership awards from Holifield Photography

70 Awards

Top Youth Leader from each high school

One Award

Central Kentucky Youth Leader of the Year

One Award

Lexington Youth Leader of the Year

Four Trips

National Leadership Conference “Town Meeting on Tomorrow”

Each student will receive a certificate from the National Council on Youth Leadership

Youth Leadership Scholarships, Titles and Leadership Awards will be awarded on the basis of the Application Form, Leadership Essay, Leadership Video and attendance at the Leadership Program and Awards Ceremony by the Awards and Scholarship Committee. Your participation at the leadership program and awards ceremony is mandatory to be eligible for any awards.

Call the Youth Salute chapter within Holifield Photography
if you have any problems or questions. (859) 276-2040

*Subject to change

Apply Online... centralky.youthsalute.com/apply

FIRST, prepare the items below and then complete the online Youth Salute application by:
Friday September 25th, 2026

Late applications will be accepted until January 15th, 2027. Students who were able to attain a 3.0 GPA by the end of the fall semester of their junior year may apply.

Leadership Roles, Activities, & Honors

Prepare a list of your leadership roles, activities, and honors to type into the online application.

- You must have held or currently hold **TWO LEADERSHIP ROLES** to which you were chosen by your peers or an adult leader within the past two years in school, religious or community sponsored organizations.
- **Spell out complete names of clubs and organizations, no abbreviations. Explain your role.**
- These items are used for winner selections.

Student Biography

Using your list from above, select up to 10 items to be shown on your biography.

The biography is displayed as part of the online student graphic & school banner.

No additional items may be added to the biography after being submitted.

List a **MAXIMUM of 10** leadership roles, participation in activities, or any honors you have received in school, religious or community sponsored organizations. Include your college and career plans. 15 word limit per item.

Example:

Helping The Hardworking Frankfort, KY President
Neat Down South Boutique Owner
Sophomore and Junior Class President
Women Business Leaders Advocate
National Honor Society
French Honor Society
National Beta Club
Franklin County High School DECA President
Varsity Girls Golf Team Captain
Varsity Girls Tennis Team

Ellie plans to major in Entrepreneurship with the hopes of expanding her business and franchising her brand.



Our selection committee would like to know more about you. The items below should reflect your authentic self and a chance to explain how you personally make a difference in your community.

Personal Essay (Required)

Please answer the questions below in essay format.

Personal essays are reviewed by the Youth Salute committee and sponsoring colleges to determine awards and scholarships.

Question: How have you made an impact in your school and community? Why is that important? What have you learned from the experience?

- Between 400-500 words.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Use your authentic voice by the telling of personal stories and observations to illustrate your points.
- Content generated by an artificial intelligence language model may disqualify the student from the Youth Salute Program.

Personal Video (Optional)

Personal video is NOT required to participate in Youth Salute.

Submissions will be used by the Youth Salute committee to help with selection of “Youth Leader of the Year” and “Town Meeting on Tomorrow” Trips.

Please prepare your thoughts prior to recording the video, but please speak freely instead of from a script. The committee would like to understand your personality like they would in an interview setting.

Question: How have you made an impact in your school and community? Why is that important? What have you learned from the experience?

- Five minute limit
- You may show video clips, photos, visual aides to help illustrate your points.
- Begin your video by stating “Hello, my name is (first/last name) and I attend (school name).”
- Please upload your video to YouTube and mark it as unlisted.
- Paste the YouTube web link into the Youth Salute application when you submit your information above.