

**Lycoming County Republican Committee's
2026 FAIRFIELD/ Dick Staib Memorial Scholarship**

AWARD: \$2250 scholarship funds to be awarded to three graduating seniors in the Class of 2026 who reside in Lycoming County. Awards will be distributed as follows: \$1000, \$750, \$500. Funds may be used towards tuition, room and board, textbooks, or other college-related expense.

ELIGIBILITY: Any 2026 graduating high school senior residing in Lycoming County, enrolled full-time in Fall 2026 at an accredited two or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Recipients will be selected by the Scholarship Committee based on the following requirements:

- 1) Required letter of recommendation sent directly from a teacher or counselor to the Lycoming County Republican Scholarship Committee. This letter must be sent from the teacher's work email to lycogoptreasurer@gmail.com.
- 2) Student Submission Email- Email essay as an attachment to the Lycoming County Republican Scholarship Committee to lycogoptreasurer@gmail.com. The email must include:
 - Student name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - School district
 - College student plans to attend beginning Fall 2026.
- 3) The essay must be 750 - 1500 words, cited and double-spaced. All essays will be reviewed through plagiarism-detection software for authenticity.
- 4) Essay must address the attached topic.
- 5) Deadline to submit: Letter of recommendation and essay must be submitted by April 17, 2026.
- 6) Top applicants will be contacted to schedule a 30-minute interview with the Scholarship Selection Committee. Interviews will take place during the week of April 27, 2026.
- 7) Scholarship winners will be notified by May 6, 2026.
- 8) Awards will be presented on May 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lycoming County Republican Committee meeting. Attendance is required for all scholarship recipients.

All personal information collected through this scholarship program will be used solely by the sponsors and will not knowingly be shared with outside entities. Top contenders must participate in both the interview and the award presentation meeting to remain eligible.

Reflection and Speculation on the Death of Charlie Kirk

In this assignment, you will compose a reflective essay examining the circumstances surrounding the reported death of Charlie Kirk, a prominent conservative political figure and founder of Turning Point USA. Kirk was killed while speaking at Utah Valley University in September 2025. Although the case remains active within the judicial system, it is essential to uphold the principle that all individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Students must submit a 750–1000 word essay, double-spaced, with appropriate citations and clear academic formatting. All responses must address each of the prompts in a clear, analytical, and well-supported manner. All submitted essays will be reviewed using plagiarism-detection software to ensure originality and academic integrity.

1. Role and Influence

Charlie Kirk is widely recognized as a youth-focused conservative organizer and the founder of Turning Point USA. To what extent do you believe this characterization accurately reflects his role in contemporary political discourse? Provide a detailed explanation of your position.

2. Initial Reaction

Describe your immediate reaction upon learning of Kirk's death in September 2025. What emotions or thoughts did this news evoke, and what factors do you believe shaped your response?

3. Tone and Framing of Reporting

In your view, was the coverage of his death respectful, sensationalized, politicized, or balanced?

4. Impact on Political Discourse

Reflect on how the loss of a prominent youth-oriented political figure might influence broader conversations about political identity, polarization, or public safety in today's political climate.

5. Future Implications

Discuss the potential long-term effects of his death on political rhetoric, campus activism, and security protocols at political events. How might this incident shape the environment in which political engagement occurs?