

A Servant's Heart Essay & Video Scholarship Rules:

1. Entrant must be a senior who both legally resides in AND attends high school (public, private or homeschool) in Loudoun County (VA) and intends to enter a college. University or trade school following high school. The following are ineligible to participate: family members of the Board of Directors of Joshua's Hands.
2. Entries may either be in essay or video format on the theme "A Servant's Heart: Choosing to Serve." *The heart of the essay/video topic is to encourage students to write about how others who have mentored them (intentionally or unintentionally) and/or service that has changed their lives. Please note this should NOT be a litany of service commitments but more of an anecdotal account of the impact service and mentors have made on the applicant's life.*

ESSAY: Submission must be no more than 1500 words. **Essay MUST be written and saved as a Microsoft Word/pdf document and sent as an attachment.**

VIDEO: Submission must be no longer than two minutes in length and involve more than still photos. This should be a quality video effort. While an applicant may involve others in the production of the video, each applicant may only submit one single, unique video for consideration and no scholarship may be split between multiple parties. No entry shall contain a performance that has been broadcast or streamed, published or televised, as part of a recording of a motion picture film or television program. All video entrants must agree to have their video posted on the Joshua's Hands website and Facebook. Video must be uploaded to YouTube, and the link must be included in the email with the entry form attached.
3. Each entrant may submit only one essay/video. It must be original, and must not infringe upon any material protected by copyright. **For anonymity in judging, the student's name should NOT be anywhere in the essay/video, including the header/footer or credits.**
4. Each entry must be supported by at least one but not more than two letters of recommendation (500 words or fewer) from community service organizations testifying to the applicant's volunteerism/service. Letters should not be written by the student's parents or immediate relatives, and MUST be written and saved as a Microsoft Word/pdf document. They may not be included in the body of an email, but must be sent as an attachment to [Joshua's Hands \(info@JoshuasHands.org\)](mailto:info@JoshuasHands.org) with "Scholarship Letter of Reference for (Student's Name – first and last)" in the subject line.
5. **2020 Essay Entry Form must be completed (not included in word count) and submitted with the essay/video as a separate attachment. Each entry MUST BE accompanied by a photo of the applicant in JPEG format. This should be a "headshot" or graduation photo to be used in announcing the winners. Essay/video, entry form, photo AND letter(s) of recommendation must be received via e-mail, by 11:59pm on April 15, 2020. Date and time when the email was sent (not received) will govern eligibility. Only emailed submissions will be accepted. Incomplete application packets (application packet = essay/video, entry form, photo, letter(s) of reference) will be disqualified. Submission of an essay/video and photo represent consent to use all information and content for announcement and publicity regarding the Scholarship contest.**
6. The criteria for judging are: originality, understanding of servanthood, community service, proper grammar and spelling (essays), quality of production (videos), and adherence to the competition topic.
7. Three scholarships of \$1,000 may be awarded at the discretion of the Board of Directors (who reserve the right to forego awarding the scholarships if there is an insufficient number of entries or quality entries). Winners will be selected on or about May 1, 2020, and will be awarded the scholarship at each student's high school award ceremony. The judges' decisions are final. No prior notification will be given to students. Winners will be posted on the website after the scholarships have been awarded.
8. The scholarship will be paid directly to the college, university or trade school that the winner will attend and must be used to pay for tuition, fees, books and other course materials. The scholarship will be forfeited if the winner does not claim the scholarship by December 31, 2020, or if the student is not enrolled in and attending college, university or trade school in the 2020 fall semester. **Funds cannot be paid after December 31, 2020.**
9. All essays/videos, and all rights to their publication, become the property of Joshua's Hands which may use, edit, and excerpt these entries for promotional or any other purpose, including use on any Joshua's Hands digital media without attribution or compensation.