



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE Civic Scholarship Program

The Bernards Township Democratic Committee (BTDC) civic scholarship, founded in 2019, is awarded to a Ridge High School student entering their first year of college or senior year of high school who aspires to foster civic engagement and democratic values. The chosen applicant will receive \$1,000.

The recipient will also receive the opportunity for a multi-week summer internship working with an exciting local political campaign. The selected student will be expected to fulfill the responsibilities of the internship in-person and provide their own mode of transportation.

Applications may be submitted to the BTDC scholarship committee from **March 16 to May 1, 2026**. All information submitted will be held in confidence and used solely for the purpose of scholarship administration.

Thank you for your interest in the BTDC civic scholarship. We look forward to reviewing your application.

Sincerely,

The Bernards Township Democratic Committee

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
Civic Scholarship Instructions

1. Complete the required information.
2. Print or type your essays and include them with your application. The essays must be original thoughts of the applicant, in the applicant's own words, written by the applicant. Instructions appear on page four.
3. Provide the recommendation instructions to your Sponsor (e.g., High School Instructor, Staff, Community Representatives) as described on page five. Recommendations must be printed or typed and included with submission of the full application.
4. Attach a copy of your current high school transcript. *This transcript must include your high school attendance record. If your transcript does not include your attendance record, please ask your school to provide an official report.*
5. Attach an **optional** resume or cv.
6. Complete all information so that it is legible. Failure to do so may result in elimination.
7. It is suggested that you have your application reviewed by your guidance counselor, the individual writing your recommendation, or another sponsor to insure completeness and accuracy.

Completed applications must be **submitted by May 1, 2026** to the address below. Applications can also be sent as a pdf file to npavlinger@gmail.com. Applications postmarked on May 1 will be accepted.

Bernards Township Democratic Committee
Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 78
Liberty Corner, N.J. 07938

PERSONAL DATA

Full Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of Birth _____

Telephone # _____ Cell Other

Email address _____

Present Grade Level _____

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

Lack of data may result in elimination from Bernards Township Democratic Committee Consideration.

The information reported is true, correct, and complete, to the best of my knowledge.

If selected for the Bernards Township Democratic Committee Scholarship I will comply with program requirements.

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

SELECTION CRITERIA

The BTDC scholarship program is designed to recognize and support a student who is interested in fostering democratic values, including, among others, **life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, justice, the common good, equality, truth, diversity, and patriotism**. The candidate for this scholarship is selected based on:

- Resident of Bernards Township
- Scholastic achievement
- Character and leadership
- Breadth and depth of community service

The scholarship committee of the Bernards Township Democratic Committee has been entrusted with the task of deciding which candidate will be awarded a scholarship and accompanying internship opportunity.

APPLICANT ESSAYS

THE BTDC is interested in learning more about you, your day-to-day involvements, and your aspirations. Please answer the following prompts and carefully follow the directions for each.

On separate sheets, please prepare your essays. Include your name at the top of the pages (please use 12-point font and double space). Your signature is required at the end of each entry.

1. Tell us about your day-to-day in-school activities, what do you find most fulfilling? **(250 words max/1 typed page)**
2. In your day-to-day extracurricular activities (outside of school), what do you find most fulfilling? **(250 words max/1 typed page)**
3. To help us make this important decision, please tell us more, and in detail, about the following: **(500 words max/2 typed pages)**
 - Your interest in civics and government.
 - Aspiration to foster democratic values (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, justice, the common good, equality, truth, diversity, and patriotism).
 - Your interest in having an internship in a local political office.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Sponsor: You have been selected by an applicant for the Bernards Township Democratic Committee Scholarship Program to provide a letter of recommendation. If you are a High School or Community Representative (for example: the student's High School Principal, Guidance Counselor, religious leader or another professional from the community) please attest to the character of the applicant and their capability for fulfilling the multi week summer internship in a local political office.

Candidates for the scholarship are selected based on:

- Resident of Bernards Township
- Scholastic achievement
- Character and leadership
- Breadth and depth of community service

On a separate sheet, please provide a letter of recommendation. Include the applicant's name and Bernards Township Democratic Committee Scholarship Application Letter of Recommendation at the top of the pages. Your signature, title and the date are required at the end of the Letter of Recommendation. Two pages maximum.

To help us make this important decision regarding the Applicant, reflecting on the criteria above, please include any information you think will assist the committee in its consideration of the candidate as the scholarship recipient.