



ANN ARBOR

Center *for* Independent Living

2016 JOHN WEIR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

For College Bound Seniors with Disabilities

About the Scholarship

The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (Ann Arbor CIL) awards the annual John Weir Academic Scholarship to outstanding students with disabilities. One-time scholarships range from \$200 - \$500.

Eligibility

Eligible students for the John Weir Scholarship must:

- Be a high school senior graduating with the class of 2016;
- Have a significant disability of any kind – for example, physical, visual, developmental, cognitive, hearing, learning, emotional, or other;
- Live in Washtenaw, Livingston, or Monroe County, **Michigan**;
- Plan to attend a 2- or 4-year college, university or a trade school; and
- Submit completed application materials by **Friday, April 1, 2016**.

Honoring John Weir

When my brother, John Weir, acquired his spinal cord injury (SCI) in 1964, the atmosphere was different for people with disabilities than it is today. The medical field kept people alive with SCIs, but society offered little in terms of satisfying futures. John was a pioneer in many ways. His ability to inspire practical help instead of pity was one of his gifts. While in the hospital after his surgery, he graduated from Ann Arbor's Pioneer High School. Later, he became the first severely disabled person to go to Eastern Michigan University. In 1976, he helped found the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (CIL). At the time, CILs were a new idea designed to provide resources to people who were disabled and to assist in ways that facilitated a more active life. John remained an active pioneer until his death in 1985. ~ **Lou Weir**

Selection Process

The John Weir Selection Committee reviews each application received and interviews the top candidates. Scholarships will be awarded in spring of 2016 in Ann Arbor. Winners are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony with their friends and family.

Questions?

Please contact Anna Dusbiber Gossage, Ann Arbor CIL Youth Services Manager, at (734) 971-0277 x 17 or anna@aacil.org

Application Instructions

- 1) Fill in (by yourself or with the assistance of another person) this application form.
- 2) On a separate sheet of paper, answer **each** essay question in 300 words or less in essay/paragraph format.
- 3) Enclose one letter of recommendation from a teacher or a school counselor.
- 4) Mail application and essay questions 1-4, to: **Ann Arbor CIL, John Weir Scholarship, Attn: Anna Dusbiber Gossage, 3941 Research Park Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48108.**
Completed application materials MUST be postmarked by Friday, April 1, 2016.

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Your Telephone #: _____ Your Email Address: _____

High School: _____ Grade Point Average: _____

County in Which You Live (Circle One): Washtenaw Monroe Livingston

School Telephone #: _____

Teacher/Counselor: _____

High School Address: _____

Which colleges, universities or trade schools have you applied to? _____

Which one(s) have accepted you? _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please type (by yourself or with the assistance of another person) your responses to each of the following essay questions. Please view this as an opportunity to “sell yourself” to the Selection Committee so let your personality shine through.

1. Describe your school-related and/or extracurricular activities. Be sure to include volunteer work and community service, if any, and what you learned along the way. (300 words or less)
2. What accomplishment(s) are you most proud of and why? (300 words or less)
3. What is your disability and how has it impacted your high school experience and your life in and outside of school? How do you embrace your disability? (300 words or less)
4. What are your hopes and dreams for your future? (ie. Education, career opportunities). (300 words or less)