

EDWARD W. MILLS SCHOLARSHIP

Edward W. Mills was a teacher and athletic coach. He began his teaching career in 1937 at the Sefton Township Union School, and then taught science and coached basketball at Mason High School. In 1946, Mr. Mills began teaching General Science and Biology in the Vandalia Community High School, coaching track, intramural sports, and was the assistant football, baseball, and basketball coach for many years. He also served as official score keeper at the VCHS varsity basketball games for 50 years. Following his retirement in 1979, Mr. Mills continued to substitute teach in the Fayette County School System until 2002 for a total of 65 years of teaching.

For many years during the summer months, Mr. Mills was a National Park Ranger and Naturalist in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming at both the Norris Geyser Basin and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. He later served as the Ramsey Lake State Park Summer Campground Host. He also managed the Vandalia Park's Softball League, and supervised Youth Conservation Corps activities within Fayette County. Mr. Mills was elected to the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame and was a charter member of the VCHS Hall of Fame.

Mr. Mills's years of teaching extended well beyond his official 65 years of teaching and beyond those thousands of students in his classroom. His entire life was a lesson in hard work, honesty, loyalty, responsibility, kindness, generosity, patience, godliness, and in good values. For many years he had a wooden paddle hanging in his classroom with one word carved into it: THINK. And that is what he did; he encouraged people to think. To think before speaking; to feed our curiosity and to ask questions about the things we know little of; to think about what matters most to each of us, and to act accordingly; To think about what the right thing to do is; and to think about the consequences of our actions. He taught not just by lectures and exams, but by the example he set in his life.

Eligible Applicants

Graduating seniors from Fayette County schools with demonstrated scholastic ability and who are enrolling in a university, college, or junior college. Applicants must intend to pursue a degree in life sciences or teaching. Preference will be given to those applicants demonstrating the qualities and characteristics, as set forth above, that were important to Mr. Mills. Preference may be given to those students graduating from Vandalia Community High School and/or those students with a demonstrated financial need. In the absence of a qualified applicant, this scholarship may not be awarded in a given year.

Scholarship

A non-renewable award of \$1,000 payable upon proof of proper enrollment.

Application

- Complete and signed application form, attach additional sheets as necessary
- Official high school transcript
- A no more than three-page, typed, double-spaced essay addressing why the applicant intends to pursue a degree in life sciences or teaching
- Two letters of reference from non-family members

Deadline

Applications and attachments must be submitted to The FNB Community Bank by April 1.

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Application Form
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Name:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

High School:

University, college or junior college in which enrolling:

Intended degree:

School activities and extent of involvement:

Community activities and extent of involvement:

Honors and awards:

Select one school or community activity, or honor or award listed above and describe its importance to you:

Hobbies and interests:

Financial information (if any) selection committee should consider:

Name and telephone number of two persons submitting letters of reference:

Name: Telephone:

Name: Telephone:

I verify that to the best of my knowledge the information submitted as part of this application is true and accurate, and that the essay submitted as part of this application is my own work.

I authorize the scholarship selection committee to contact those persons who submit letters of reference on my behalf.

Date: Signature: