

2026 Community Mya Strong Character Scholarship Application

(Alburnett, North Linn, Springville, Central City, and Center Point-Urbana Seniors)

The Mya Strong Character Scholarship has been created by Mya Gilchrist on behalf of the Mya Strong Foundation. Mya is a 17 year old brain cancer survivor and has completed 3 rounds of cancer treatment in her lifetime. In 2023 Mya found out she had a new fight in front of her. Mya is now fighting a rare type of bone marrow cancer and there is no cure, but ways to treat and manage it. Over the years, Mya and her family have been supported by their family, friends, and incredibly faithful and generous community. After Mya's relapse in 2019, she wanted to take the support she received and spread the love, kindness, and generosity to others. She and her family created the Mya Strong Foundation to give back to the community and to other families that have endured Pediatric Cancer. This scholarship, also created and supported by the Mya Strong Foundation, is to be awarded to a student that has shown in some way, demonstrated their good personal character or strong moral fiber, through specific acts or by just showing kindness in the community. Mya's motto is "Choose Kindness" and she would love nothing more than to give this award to others who are not only choosing kindness, but spreading it throughout their communities and schools.

Eligibility

- **Currently enrolled graduating senior of Alburnett, North Linn, Springville, Central City, and Center Point-Urbana High Schools graduating in 2026.**
- **Plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming academic year.**
- **Have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 or higher on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent).**

Award Information

If selected as a recipient, the student will receive:

- **An award in the amount of \$500 to be used toward tuition or expenses. Three \$500 awards will be granted to selected seniors in 2026. This scholarship is a one time reward and cannot be renewed in the future.**

Selection

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of:

- **Academic record**
- **Student's one page essay**
- **Recommendation Letter**

Applications must include:

- A cover letter with student name, school, grade, contact information, scholarship you are applying for (**Alburnett scholarship or Community scholarship**) and brief school/educational plan and information for next year
 - A copy of your transcript showing you have a GPA of 3.25 or higher
 - A one page essay stating your goals and aspirations, explaining why you have good character, and why you should receive the Mya Strong Character Scholarship
 - One written recommendation letter from a person of the applicant's choice who can speak about your good character and qualities.

All applications must be RECEIVED by May 4th, 2026 and mailed or dropped off to:

Mya Strong Foundation

% Mya Gilchrist

3430 Lafayette Road

Center Point, Iowa 52213

OR EMAIL TO:

myastrongfoundation@gmail.com

Selection of recipients is made by members of the Mya Strong Foundation board. All applications will be blinded before presenting them to the board, so all selections will be based on application materials only.

All applicants will be notified of their status at senior awards night for their school or by May 31st if they are not in attendance. Payment of scholarships will be awarded in a one time payment installment from the Mya Strong Foundation directly to the awarded applicant by June 1, 2026.

Applicants for the Mya Strong Character Scholarship for Alburnett students are also eligible to apply for the Community Mya Strong Character Scholarship, but applications **MUST** be sent in separately INDICATING WHICH SCHOLARSHIP YOU ARE APPLYING FOR.

****Financial need is not considered and the selection of recipients is made by members of the Mya Strong Foundation board. All applicants agree to accept the decision is final.****