FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Russell A. Willis
Youth of the Year Scholarship
2026-2027

One scholarships in the amount of $1,000 will be awarded for 2026-27. This is a gift scholarship.

RULES

1. Candidates for this award must be a student living within the service area of the Portage Township YMCA (as defined by the YMCA of the USA).
2. The student must have been an active participant in the Portage Township YMCA programs in the past.
3. The student must display the five (5) core YMCA values – honestly, caring, respect, responsibility and faith.
4. The student must currently be an active member, volunteer or program participant at the Portage Township YMCA.
5. The student must demonstrate the abilities of being a strong leader and supporter.
6. The student must exhibit a positive attitude and participate in other community or school activities.
7. The student must demonstrate the ability to appreciate diversity.
8. The student must demonstrate that they have the capacity to succeed academically.
9. The scholarship will be awarded when the student has graduated from high school and has been enrolled in a post secondary institution.
10. Judging shall be on the following basis:

Character/Leadership	30%
Essay/Application	30%
Academic Achievement	40%

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

11. The scholarship associated with this award shall be payable upon the student's graduation from high school and acceptance to and enrollment in a two or four year degree program, a vocational training program and/or other continuing education or training program approved by the Portage Township YMCA Board of Directors. The scholarship award shall be paid directly to the educational or training institution on behalf of the award winner.

**Scholarship period is defined as the time from which scholarship is awarded until funds are fully dispersed or the scholarship expires, whichever comes first.*

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APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed application packet for the Russell A. Willis Youth of the Year Scholarship.

2. The following two letters of recommendation are required:

   a. One letter from a faculty member of the school from which the applicant will graduate.
   b. One letter from an adult citizen, other than relative, attesting to the applicant's character in regard to conduct, citizenship and leadership.

3. An original essay consisting of no more than 1,000 words (typed, double-spaced). The title of the essay will be **"What I will do to make an impact for other youth in the future."**

4. A certified transcript or photocopy of the certified transcript of the applicant's high school grades.

5. A copy of ACT or SAT test scores, if available.

6. Please be sure to attach all required materials to this application and submit **NO LATER THAN March 1, 2026.**

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Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone No._____(Home) _____(Cell)

Email: _____

Date of Birth _____ Membership # _____

YMCA Programs Participated In _____

Any additional programs or volunteer experiences with the Portage YMCA:

_____

Proposed date of graduation from high school _____

Name of college or university you hope to attend:

_____

NOTE: Please be sure to attach to this application all required materials listed on the following page, and submit to the Portage Township YMCA – 3100 Willowcreek Rd., Portage, IN 46368 **NO LATER THAN March 1, 2026.**

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In a separate document attached to this application, please answer the following questions:

Why would receiving this scholarship be important to you? Please explain.

What course of study do you plan to pursue and why?

Describe your involvement in school, church and/or community activities.

Why do you think organizations such as the Portage Township YMCA are important?

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