

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Irene Straus Scholarship

Background:

Irene Straus dedicated her life to making Madison, WI a beautiful place. She was a founding member of the Garden Center Club which began in 1962 with the primary purpose of establishing a garden center. In 1978 her dream became a reality when the Olbrich Garden Center was built. In 1983, Irene received the highest honor paid by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation when she received the Lydia Shafer Award and received an engraved silver bowl at the organization's state convention.

Irene was involved in garden club work for over 30 years. She was a Landscape Design Critic for the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and was a member of the State Judges Council for over 20 years. Irene also donated her time as a librarian at Olbrich's Horticultural Library and prepared books for public use at Olbrich Gardens as well as donated many personal volumes to the library.



Eligibility: (taken into consideration to determine recipients)

- Graduating high school seniors or continuing college students having a scholastic record with a minimum 2.8 GPA
- Enrolled in the study of horticulture, landscaping, environmental sciences, conservation, forestry, water science studies, or other similar fields of study
- Part or full-time student at an accredited 2- or 4-year college, university, or technical school located within the State of Wisconsin
- Applicants must be Wisconsin residents and attending a Wisconsin school
- 50% based on academic progress
- 25% based on character
- 25% based on occupation objectives

Award Amount:

One \$1,500 non-renewable scholarship award for tuition expenses, payable in the fall semester.

Selection:

Recipients are recommended each spring by the Wisconsin Garden Club Scholarship Selection Committee within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

Collecting the Award & Payment Procedure:

Recipients must fill out and submit Scholarship Acceptance Form and a Scholarship Verification Form through the [Scholarship Portal](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar) (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar>). Recipients are required to provide supporting documents *as instructed* in the Scholarship Verification Form, such as class registration/list **with** credits listed, proof of major, grade transcript, tuition invoice, etc.

After approval of online Scholarship Verification Form, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending. The **Community Foundation communicates with students via email**; it is the student's responsibility to keep their Scholarship Portal account updated with their current email address.

Loss of Eligibility:

Failure to register as full-time student with an acceptable major at a Wisconsin school.

Further Information:

- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
 - Website www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/
 - Email scholarships@cffoxvalley.org
 - Phone 920.702.7623