

Jake Cooper Scholarship 2026



Introduction: Jake's Way is a non-profit 501 c(3) foundation organized to assist children and adolescents financially to be able to participate in athletic activities.

Purpose: To provide a college bound Mars Area High School Senior who has participated in a high school sport with a non-renewable \$5,000 scholarship to help defray cost of the first year post-secondary education.

In order to give all applicants an equal opportunity to obtain this scholarship, and in place of an interview, the selection will be based primarily on responses to the questions highlighted below. Merit and need will also be considered. There are no right or wrong answers and your responses will be kept confidential. All responses will be reviewed and the final selection will be made by Jake's Way, Inc.

Background:

Jake Cooper was a son, a brother, a grandson, a nephew, a cousin, a friend and a teammate. While Jake passed away entirely too soon at the age of 12, his life had an impact that will be felt for generations to come. Jake was raised in Mars, PA. and was a devout baseball player. Jake proudly played for the local Mars little league in addition to playing for the Beaver Valley Baseball Club. Jake had a smile that could fill up a room and not only did he bring joy to those who knew him, he worked tirelessly to hone his baseball skills. Jake loved to have a good time, and never took life too seriously. Visit jakesway.com to learn more about Jake and Jake's Way Inc.

In applying for this scholarship, we ask the applicant to respond to the following questions in an **essay** format and in no particular order:

- 1) Jake loved life and could always find a way to have a good time. What do you do to enjoy life? How can you relate to how Jake approached life? How important is it for you to balance hard work and enjoying life and how do you keep the two in balance?
- 2) How has playing a sport and being a part of a team impacted your life? Has any particular experience with sports played an important part in your life?
- 3) What are your plans to further your education and future goals?
- 4) Anything else you may feel we should know about you

Additional Criteria:

Student must have a 3.0 or above QPA

Student must be accepted or enrolled for the upcoming school year in a 4 year college or university

Student must have participated in a varsity sport

Applicants must submit the following information:

Cover page with name, address, telephone number and email.

Two (3 max) page essay discussing the questions highlighted above.

Submit a transcript copy

Submit a letter of acceptance from a post-secondary school.

List of community service activities, work experiences, clubs and sports activities participated in during high school.

List any special circumstances or explain any financial need you may have that you would like Jake's Way, Inc. to consider when reviewing your application. (Can include in essay)

Completed applications and supporting information should be sent to:

Jake's Way, Inc.

310 Dirkshire Court

Mars, PA 16046

Please submit all information by *March 29, 2026*

*The scholarship will be paid directly to the school of the recipient.