



APPLICATION FOR THE MAX D. STITES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Max D. Stites Memorial Scholarship: for students planning to pursue an undergraduate degree at an accredited college or university (may include Community College programs leading to transfer to a four-year institution).

Award Amount: up to \$20,000 ((\$5,000 each year over four years as a full-time student [(OR \$2,500 annual payment for part-time study for up to four years)]. If you receive the award you will be asked to confirm college enrollment for renewal in subsequent years.

Max D. Stites Technical/Vocational Scholarship: for students planning to pursue a certification or two-year degree at an accredited vocational or technical institution of post-secondary education including programs at Community/Junior Colleges.

Award Amount: \$2,500 (one-time payment)

Indicate if you are applying for the 4yr Memorial Scholarship or for a 1 time Technical/Vocational Scholarship.

I am applying for the _____ Scholarship

Application Deadline: Tuesday – March 31, 2026

Max D. Stites

October 27, 1927 – February 23, 2024



Max D. Stites was a resident of Clinton for seventy years. He came to Clinton as an employee of Revere Copper and Brass in 1951. In 1967, Max took a job with the Clinton Community School District Number 15 as district business manager, a position he held until his retirement in 1992. As a district business manager, Max was responsible for managing school finances and for supervising all non-academic staff.

Max was active in community affairs and had a deep commitment to public service. In addition to his work for the Clinton Community School District, he was a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club (President, 1972-73) and served for many years on the boards of the Clinton Community YMCA (Board President, 1989-91), the Dr. John Warner Hospital Foundation, and the DeWitt County Human Services Agency. Max also served for a time as treasurer for American Legion Post #103 in Clinton and joined in many other volunteer services to the community.

Max was a lifelong Methodist and a pillar of the Clinton United Methodist Church, active in church leadership and as a Sunday School teacher.

Max grew up in Charleston, Illinois and started college there at what is now Eastern Illinois University. He graduated from high school in the spring of 1945 and entered Eastern in the fall. The wartime draft was still in effect, but Max did not turn eighteen until October and therefore spent a year in college before he was drafted and entered the U.S. Army. With so many other young men in the military, Max had the opportunity to participate in many extracurricular activities and earned varsity letters in football and basketball that year. He also joined a service fraternity, which among other things, ran a textbook exchange to keep the costs of college low. Throughout his life, Max's generosity of spirit was demonstrated in many ways, large and small.

It is the Clinton Community Educational Foundation's honor and privilege to be entrusted with this gift from the Max D. Stites family. The gift honors and memorializes Max's commitment to community service. The family of Max D. Stites hopes this gift will encourage and support young people to pursue higher education and to apply their talents and energy in service to their community. On behalf of Mr. Stites, the Foundation would like to wish you success in the future.

MAX D. STITES SCHOLARSHIP

A Clinton High School graduate may apply for the Max D. Stites Memorial Scholarship. Candidates are evaluated by completing an application, submitting an essay, and sitting for a personal interview, with the scholarship committee. A complete application includes:

- **General information Document**- See attached form.
- **Applicant Essay**- See attached form.
- **Personal Resume**- Please list your community and church activities, school extra-curricular, interests and hobbies, employment history and any honors/awards you have received while in high school.
- **High School Transcript(s)**- Complete, except for last semester.
- **College Transcript(s)**- for any college courses completed while in high school.
- **Two letters of recommendation** - Request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and one provided by a contact outside of the school district. Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.
- **Be sure to include all of the above or the application will be denied.**
- [For renewal of award in subsequent years] Please provide an up-to-date **College Transcript** and a **Brief Note** describing the college experience.

Completed applications are to be returned in a sealed envelope to the high school guidance office by the application deadline noted on the application packet cover page. The outside of the envelope must be marked with the student's name and CCEF-Max D. Stites Scholarship.

After submission of a complete application, selected students will be informed of the date, location and time for a personal interview with the scholarship committee. Failure to be present for the interview will disqualify the student from the selection process. The student should be prepared to speak with the scholarship committee about his/her application.

[Note: when re-applying for a scholarship, subsequent interviews are not required.]

Those students selected to receive a scholarship will receive further instructions outlining the eligibility requirements for disbursement of the scholarship award.

The number of scholarships awarded may vary each year depending on Foundation Income and student disbursement may vary according to student needs. Scholarship decisions are made by the scholarship committee which is comprised of district faculty members, CCEF board members and/or community members. The Clinton Community Educational Foundation has the final decision on all scholarship awards.

Questions: Contact the CCEF Scholarship Committee by email at info@ccef15.org.

Max D. Stites Scholarship
General Information Document

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Personal Email: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

H. S. Grade Point Average: _____ SAT/ACT Composite Score: _____

POST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

School/Program attendance plans, include school/institute name and program of study:

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am currently in my last academic year and graduating from Clinton Community High School. All information provided on this application is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Max D. Stites Scholarship

Applicant Essay

Max D Stites provided leadership and service to the Clinton Community for seventy years. His success owed much to his core values. These values include: RESPECT, INTEGRITY, and HUMILITY.

[Four-year scholarship applicants only]

In an essay of approximately 500 words describe a situation in which you demonstrated (or should have demonstrated) respect, integrity, and/or humility. What was the outcome of the situation? What did you learn from the experience about the importance of these values to your success?

Please double space and use a legible font 12 pt. or larger. Sign and date below and attach the essay to the back of this form.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

In your letter of recommendation, the writers should mention how long and under what circumstances they have known you. Please comment on the applicant's potential. Please instruct the writers to submit the letter in a sealed envelope. Include the two letters of recommendation with the rest of the application packet. Remember, request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and **one provided by a contact outside of the school district** (a family friend, church leader, coach of non-school related activity, previous employer, etc.). **Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.**

Reference's Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications are due Tuesday – March 31, 2026