



River City Ball Scholarship Application

Award: \$1,500 Scholarship to two graduating Seniors in Smith County

Due: March 31, 2026

Essay Prompt:

The River City Ball was created to support the ongoing efforts of local non-profits and organizations who serve to improve the quality of life in Smith County through tourism, preservation, community involvement, and commerce. Each year the River City Ball benefits a different local organization. To date, River City Ball has donated over \$150,000 to local causes. The benefiting cause for 2026 is Smith County Mentorship Program.

This year we are asking scholarship applicants to choose one of the organizations that applied to be this year's beneficiary and volunteer at least one hour with that organization. Write an essay explaining what you learned about that organization, why the purpose of the River City Ball is vital to the community and how the organization you volunteered with fits into that purpose. Include in your essay a description of the organization, what you did while volunteering, and how that organization benefits the citizens of Smith County. Please include any thoughts about how River City Ball can equitably support causes to make a bigger impact in Smith County. Essay should be at least 2 pages (double spaced, 12 point font) and not contain any identifying information.

Please turn in essay to guidance office or emailed by March 31, 2026. Essays will be graded on an anonymous basis by the River City Ball Scholarship Committee. The scholarship will be presented at each school's Senior Award Ceremony. Please feel free to contact the committee with any questions: riverscityball@outlook.com

The 2026 River City Ball Beneficiary applicants (in alphabetical order):

1. American Legion Post 57 www.facebook.com/groups/420277111644556
2. [The Emmanuel House](#)
3. [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) of Smith County (selected as recipient of 2026 River City Ball Golden Ticket sales)
4. Justified Riding Club www.facebook.com/groups/506267679549851
5. [Pregnancy Resource Center of Smith County, TN](#)
6. [SC3 Public](#) Smith County Christian Co-op: Homeschool Cooperative
7. [Smith County Mentorship Program](#) (selected as 2026 River City Ball Recipient organization)