



PFLAG Manistee Scholarship Guidelines

The PFLAG Manistee Scholarship program will continue in 2026 in honor of founding PFLAG Manistee Board Members, **Linda Karle-Nelson and Tom Nelson**, for their years of service ensuring an inclusive and supportive community for LGBTQ+ individuals and their friends and families.

Scholarships will be available to students who have demonstrated their ability to support PFLAG's vision of a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Eligibility

Two or more scholarships ranging from \$500-\$1000 will be awarded in the spring of 2026 to Manistee County high school seniors who are planning to pursue certification in a technical/vocational program or who are planning to attend an accredited college or university in the fall of 2026.

Priority will be given to those applicants who have demonstrated service in support of the LGBTQ+ community and/or who have demonstrated an interest in social justice, diversity, and inclusion by involvement in school clubs, community advocacy, church groups, etc. Applicants will not be asked to identify their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Requirements

- A signed and completed scholarship application (including short essay specific to essay prompt).
- A letter of recommendation (e.g., from a school counselor, teacher, coach or other staff member, pastor, mentor, employer, etc.). You may submit more than one, but only one letter is required.
- Your application, with essay and letter of recommendation, must be submitted by **Friday, April 3, 2026** either through the PFLAG Manistee website, via email or by mail.

Website: <https://pflagmanistee.org/scholarship/>

New Email: info@pflagmanistee.org

Mail: PFLAG Manistee
88 Spinnaker Drive
Manistee, MI 49660

If you encounter any obstacles submitting your application, be sure to see your school counselor or trusted teacher for assistance! A confirmation email will be sent informing you when PFLAG Manistee has received your completed application, essay and letter(s) of recommendation. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. We will notify all applicants of our decisions by May 1, 2026.

The scholarship recipients will be invited to attend a PFLAG Manistee meeting to be congratulated by its members and have a group photo taken for scholarship fund promotional purposes, but it is not mandatory for receiving the award.

The scholarship award winner will need to provide contact information of the student financial services office of their institution, and student ID number if assigned, as soon as possible for scholarship money to be paid.



PFLAG Manistee Scholarship Application

NOTE: All personal information submitted to PFLAG Manistee will be strictly confidential and will not be shared outside the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Given/Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date of birth: _____

Name of High School: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Name and location of school(s) or certification program you plan to attend and your admission status:

☐ planning on applying ☐ applied and waiting for a response ☐ accepted for admission

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Intended major or area of study/interest: _____

List any community volunteerism, awards, honors, recognition, or leadership roles you have had with clubs or extracurricular activities:

☐ In the event that I am a 2026 PFLAG Scholarship recipient, I give my consent to be included in a group or individual photo and share my name for scholarship fund recognition and promotional purposes.

Signature _____

Please share an essay (approximately 300 to 700 words) that describes:

- How your experiences have influenced who you are today (tell us about you and what is important to you); and
- What you have done and/or what you will/want to do to create or contribute to more socially just communities and/or support the LGBTQ+ community, or other marginalized or underrepresented people.

The purpose of this essay is to simply learn a bit about the person you are and the person you hope to become - no stress!