



# Youth Scholarship Program 2016

(Fast Facts)

It is the mission of the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair to promote and celebrate the positive achievements in Michigan Rural and Urban Agriculture, Business, and Industry. To fulfill that mission we annually recognize and celebrate those youth participating in Rural and Urban Agriculture development and this year will be awarding \$40,000 in scholarship dollars. We are able to award these dollars because of our amazing partners Brighthouse Networks, The Detroit Shriners, The Kroger Company of Michigan, Guernsey Farms Dairy, and C.F. Burger Creamery.

## Who is eligible to compete for a Scholarship?

### Animal/Livestock Exhibitors, Home Arts and Agriculture Exhibitors, and Urban Farming Youth exhibitors

- **Home Arts and/or Agriculture** 12 exhibitors in the areas will compete for up to twelve (12) \$500 Scholarships. Eligible to exhibitors eight (8) years of age and no older than twenty (20) years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
- **Animal exhibitors** at the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair in the Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, Swine, Rabbits, Poultry, and Equine areas are eligible to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship (8 total scholarships). Eligible to exhibitors eight (8) years of age and no older than twenty (20) years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
- **Urban Farming** youth from cities of 30,000 people or more are eligible to apply for Scholarships based on their contributions to the production of food in their community. Youth Exhibitor: K-12th Grade. Youth must be five (5) years of age, but not over twenty (20) years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Date of birth must be on entry form. Open to Michigan youth only.

An exhibitor is only eligible to win 1 scholarship *per year* at the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair, but may enter more than one division.

### Home Arts/Agriculture Scholarships

**New this year, instead of awarding Gold ribbons to winners at fairs in Michigan, all youth will be eligible to enter the 2016 Michigan State Fair and apply for the Michigan State Fair Scholarship.**

The Home Arts/Agriculture Scholarships will be based on 3 areas

1. Placing will be done as follows (60%):
  - a. Exhibit at a fair in Michigan, but not necessarily this year. Fairs that take place after the entry deadline for the Michigan State fair can still have youth enter if they exhibited in previous years. **Fair entries and applications for scholarships are due August 1, 2016.**
  - b. Points will be counted on exhibitors up to 6 projects in the Youth Home Arts/Agriculture departments.
  - c. Exhibitors may enter more than 6 projects, but only the top 6 placings will count for points. (A youth may enter 10 projects for the \$12 entry fee and will be paid premiums regardless of scholarships earned).
  - d. Exhibitors must designate if they are applying for the Home Arts or Agriculture Scholarship and make sure that they have enough projects to fulfil the requirements for their area. (Example: if an exhibitor enters 3 Home Arts classes and 3 Agriculture classes, they probably would not have enough points in either division to win a scholarship). Exhibitors may choose not to enter 6 projects, but will be at a disadvantage in the scoring of points.
2. Personal application and school transcripts that includes an essay questions(s) and evidence of community involvement. (30%)
3. A letter of recommendation from a non-family member. (10%)

## **Animal/ Livestock Scholarships**

### **The scholarships are based on 4 areas in the Livestock division:**

1. Placing in up to 3 head of breeding stock (2 head of swine) at the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair (extra points for Champions) (40%)
2. Placing for showmanship at the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair (20%)
3. Personal application and school transcripts that includes an essay and evidence of community involvement. (30%)
4. A letter of recommendation from a non-family member. (10%)

## **Equine Scholarship**

### **Scholarship will be based on 4 areas in the Equine division (Light or Draft Horse):**

1. Placing on up to 3 classes in the horse division (extra points will be earned for Championship classes) (40%)
2. Placing for showmanship at the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair (highest placing if multiple showmanships are entered). (20%)
3. Personal application and school transcripts that includes an essay and evidence of community involvement. (30%)
4. A letter of recommendation from a non-family member. (10%)

An overall scholarship winner and runner-up of the Livestock/Equine and Home Arts/Agriculture divisions will receive additional scholarship money AND there may be interviews if the number of applicants warrants.

## **Urban Farming Scholarships**

### **Scholarship Entry Criteria:**

- a) Must be from an Urban Area (30K population or higher).
- b) Proof of farming work (letter from parent or other adult who confirms youth exhibitor's involvement and recommends their work).
- c) Photographs of youth exhibitor actively gardening, which may be used for State Fair and Scholarship program promotional purposes
- f) One to two page essay regarding the applicants experience with agriculture and its relationship and importance to the broader community.
- g) Harvested items or photographs of items.