



The Courtney Wilkes Memorial Agriculture & Veterinary Scholarship

Presented Annually by The Vidalia® Onion Industry

In June 2011, Toombs County tragically lost a beloved 15-year-old, Courtney Wilkes. To commemorate Courtney's memory, the Vidalia Onion farmers created the Courtney Wilkes Memorial Agriculture and Veterinary Scholarship.

Courtney, a rising junior at Toombs County High School, was not only the top academic achiever in her class but also held the prestigious position of an officer in FFA. She excelled as a star soccer player and was known for her unwavering faith as a devout Christian. Her love for the outdoors was evident to all who knew her, as she was described as infectiously cheerful, always offering a bright smile and sharing silly jokes.

Her passion for animals fueled her dream of becoming a veterinarian, and her enthusiasm for life, paired with her quirky sense of humor, left a lasting impact on the Vidalia community. To those who were fortunate enough to know her, Courtney will forever be remembered as more than just a name on a scholarship check.

This scholarship will be awarded to a student with characteristics and interests like Courtney Wilkes's. Applicants should possess Courtney's strong morals, great humor, intelligence, commitment to learning, and respect for nature and animals. Applicants must also plan to earn a degree in an agricultural or veterinary field of study.

Who is Eligible?

The Vidalia Onion Industry will award **one scholarship of \$1,000** to a graduate of the current school year from a high school within the 20-county Vidalia Onion growing region (**Toombs, Tattnall, Treutlen, Montgomery, Candler, Bulloch, Evans, Laurens, Dodge, Telfair, Wheeler, Emanuel, Appling, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Screven, Long, Wayne, Bacon, and Pierce Counties**). **Applicants must pursue an agricultural or veterinary-related field of study.** The recipient must begin full-time post-secondary studies at an accredited four-year institution in the United States within one year graduation. The chosen recipient must provide a letter of acceptance and proof of enrollment before the release of scholarship funds.

How is the Scholarship Evaluated?

Applicants will be assessed based on a range of qualifications, such as GPA, ACT scores, school activities, and community involvement. Although this scholarship is not solely based on financial need, it may be taken into consideration. The Scholarship Founders place great importance on applicants possessing similar positive qualities to Courtney, who was an exceptional role model for her siblings and peers, as well as a remarkable young ambassador for the Vidalia community.

Applications & Contributions:

Courtney Wilkes Scholarship • C/O Vidalia® Onion Business Council • PO Box 2611 • Vidalia, GA 30475
912-537-1881

Checks payable to GFVGA Foundation, Courtney Wilkes Scholarship



Recipients will be chosen annually by the Vidalia Onion Scholarship Review Board, appointed by the Vidalia Onion Business Council.

The Vidalia Onion Business Council is a non-profit organization committed to protecting the cultivation, harvesting, and promotion of the world-famous Vidalia onion, as well as advocating for the industry at both state and federal levels. For more information about the VOBC or the Courtney Wilkes Agriculture & Veterinary Scholarship, please contact Shane Curry at 912-278-5857.



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Required Documentation

- Official High School Transcript showing current GPA
- Copy of Official SAT/ACT scores
- Two Letters of Recommendation
Relatives excluded and one letter from a non-academic-related source
- Documentation of Financial Need, if applicable
- Application, completed and signed
- Essay, either attached separately or typed on application

Application, essay, and all supporting documentation must be submitted to the Vidalia® Onion Scholarship Committee by April 30, 2025

**Courtney Wilkes Memorial Scholarship
C/O Vidalia® Onion Business Council
PO Box 2611
Vidalia, GA 30475**

**Information submitted is used for this scholarship review process only and is kept strictly confidential.*

All submittals must be typed. We have provided areas in which you can type, but please note the length of available space for each question should not influence the length of your answers.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Personal Information

Full Name:	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>
Address:	_____		_____
	<i>Mailing Address</i>		<i>Apartment/Unit #</i>
	_____	_____	_____
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP Code</i>
Home Phone:	() _____	Alternate Phone:	() _____
E-mail Address:	_____		
Social Security Number or Government ID:	_____		
Birth Date:	_____		

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Financial Need (Not a requirement)

Annual Income for Household _____ Total # of dependents _____

Dependents' Ages _____ # Dependents attending college/tech _____

Father's Employer _____ Father's Occupation _____

Mother's Employer _____ Mother's Occupation _____

Factors or circumstances which affect your financial need:

Academic Ability

Cumulative GPA Weighted: _____ Non-weighted: _____

SAT Score Verbal: _____ Math: _____

ACT Score _____

Scholastic Achievements:

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Community involvement

School activities

Plans for the future

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Why are you interested in agriculture or veterinary medicine?

What are your aspirations specifically in agriculture or veterinary medicine?

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Why do you believe you are a deserving candidate for Courtney's Scholarship? What qualities do you possess that align with the positive attributes demonstrated by Courtney?

If you are selected as the recipient of this scholarship, you will be representing Georgia's State Vegetable, the Vidalia Onion, as an ambassador. How do you plan to uphold the values of our industry and serve as a responsible steward?

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Essay (Type Below or Attach):

Please describe how hard work, perseverance, and/or faith have played a role in your life.

(250 words minimum)

I declare that all the above information is true and correct.

Name _____ Date _____

The Vidalia® Onion Scholarship Committee retains the authority to modify or revoke scholarships without prior notice. The decision of the Vidalia® Onion Scholarship Review Board is final, and no further correspondence will be entertained. All applications are kept confidential.

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