

# 2024 Bedford County Fair Ken Palmer Memorial Scholarship Contest



**August 21, 2024 at the Bedford Museum**  
Contest Day Begins at 5:00PM

### **Scholarship Prizes**

Winner: \$1000 Scholarship

Runner Up: \$500 Scholarship

\*Funds can be used for educational pursuits including college, career training, STEM education programs, academic and agricultural camps through FFA and 4-H programs.

## **Introducing the 2024 Bedford County Fair Ken Palmer Memorial Scholarship Contest**

The Bedford County Fair is proud to announce the introduction of the Ken Palmer Memorial Scholarship Contest, a new and significant addition to our event lineup. This scholarship contest is created in the spirit and memory of Ken Palmer, a long-time Bedford community leader and a passionate advocate for agriculture.

Ken Palmer's dedication to the Bedford community and his tireless efforts to support local agriculture were instrumental in facilitating the return of the Bedford County Fair. His unwavering commitment provided countless opportunities for Bedford 4-H and FFA members as well as other young people, helping to nurture and develop the future leaders of our community.

The Fair Board is honored to establish the Ken Palmer Memorial Scholarship Contest as a tribute to Mr. Palmer's legacy. This scholarship aims to continue his mission by supporting and encouraging young individuals who share his passion for agriculture and community service. Through this scholarship, we hope to inspire future generations to carry forward Ken Palmer's vision for a thriving agricultural community in Bedford.

The Ken Palmer Memorial Scholarship Contest will provide financial assistance to deserving Bedford County youth, helping them to further their education and pursue careers in agriculture. The Fair Board is committed to honoring Mr. Palmer's memory by fostering the growth and development of young agriculturalists, ensuring that his legacy of dedication, service, and passion lives on in Bedford County.

We invite all eligible Bedford County youth to participate in this contest and join us in celebrating the life and contributions of Ken Palmer. Together, let's continue his work and build a brighter future for Bedford!

## Ken Palmer Memorial Youth Scholarship Contest Rules

### Eligibility:

- The contest is open to youth who reside in Bedford County, Virginia.
- Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 19 as of January 1, 2024.
- Contestants may enter the contest multiple times; however, those who have previously won first place are ineligible to compete again. Second and third place winners may re-enter in subsequent years.

### Entry Information:

- All entries must be postmarked by August 10, 2024. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.
- Entries should be mailed to the following address: Bedford County Fair PO Box 1461 Bedford, VA 24523

### Application Requirements:

- Each application must include the following components:
  1. **Completeness and Accuracy:** All required components are included and correctly filled out.
  2. **Quality of the Essay Portion:** The essay responses will be judged on content, clarity, originality, and relevance to the questions.
  3. **Recommendation Letter:** The strength and relevance of the recommendation letter will be considered.
  4. **Resume:** The resume will be assessed based on the applicant's achievements, involvement in activities, and overall presentation.
  5. **Speech & Question Portion:** The speech will be evaluated based on its content, the contestant's poise, and the delivery of the speech.

### Submission Guidelines:

- Applications may be handwritten or typed. However, they must be legible and neat. Illegible applications will not be considered.
- All application materials must be included in a single envelope. Multiple submissions or separate mailings will not be accepted.
- Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Ensure all required documents are included and properly filled out.

### Judging Criteria:

- Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  1. **Completeness and Accuracy:** All required components are included and correctly filled out.

2. **Quality of the Essay Portion:** The essay responses will be judged on content, clarity, originality, and relevance to the questions.
3. **Recommendation Letter:** The strength and relevance of the recommendation letter will be considered.
4. **Resume:** The resume will be assessed based on the applicant's achievements, involvement in activities, and overall presentation.
5. **Speech Portion:** Contestants will be required to give a speech to a small panel of judges. The speech will be graded on content, poise, professional presentation and delivery. Speeches should be four to six minutes in length.

#### **Awards:**

- Scholarships will be awarded to the top two contestants, with the amounts and distribution to be determined by the contest committee.
- The first-place winner will be awarded the Ken Palmer Memorial Youth Scholarship and recognized at the Bedford County Fair.
- Contestants who win first place are ineligible to compete again in future years. However, second place winners may re-enter the contest in subsequent years.
- Scholarships will be paid directly to educational institutions.
- Winners may use the prize funds to pursue post graduate education and students who have not graduated but win FFA, 4-H, DECA and similar conferences or training as well as other STEM or Agricultural career training opportunities. Appeals can be made to the fair board prior to 90 days before funds are needed.

#### **Opportunities for Winners:**

- The first-place winner will have the opportunity to represent the Bedford County Fair at the Virginia Association of Fairs Contest in their Youth Scholarship Contest.
- The highest-placing female contestant will also have the opportunity to participate in the Miss Virginia Association of Fairs Pageant if she chooses to do so and wear the title of Miss Bedford County Fair.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Winners will be announced publicly at the Bedford County Fair.
- By entering the contest, participants agree to have their names and essays published in local media and promotional materials for the scholarship program.
- The contest committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with the rules or is found to contain false information.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Bedford County Fair committee at [BedfordVAFair@Gmail.Com](mailto:BedfordVAFair@Gmail.Com)

**Application:**

Participant Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Currently Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures:**

I certify that all information presented in this application is true, corrent and my original work. I have read the rules and understand the requirements of the Bedford County Fair Youth Leadership Scholarship Contest.

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Essay Questions:**

Essay questions must be answered in less than two total pages for all questions (double spaced, 12pt.) A document with essays should be attached to and turned in with completed application.

1. Why do you believe the county fair is important to the Bedford community?
2. What do you see as the future of agriculture?
3. Describe the role the Bedford Museum plays and the value it adds to our community.

### **Resume:**

Resumes should be one to two pages of relevant information and should include the following:

1. Fair participation and service.
2. Community involvement: list group name(s), years involved and brief description of participation.
3. Work experience, paid or volunteer. Include title and responsibilities
4. Honors or Awards received.
5. Statement of your plans for higher education or career goals.

### **Letter of Recommendation:**

One letter of recommendation from a local community member is required. The letter should highlight the student's unique contribution and work within the community.

### **Personal Speech/Statement:**

Groups around the community, including local fairs, are struggling to find volunteers. Why do you think there is a volunteer shortage in the community and how would encourage more people to serve in their communities?