

Alabama Stonewall Jackson Memorial Fund Repayable Scholarship Program

The Alabama Stonewall Jackson Memorial Fund was established in 1955 by an act of the Alabama Legislature to “memorialize that great American and Confederate General, ‘Stonewall’ Jackson, through a program of education . . . including both essay contests and scholarships” (Act No. 529).

The fund is used to award up to three repayable scholarships to Alabama high school seniors each year. The scholarships function as no-interest loans, which must be repaid. Upon graduation or termination of education, recipients must set up a repayment schedule of no more than five years’ duration.

For a student to be considered for a scholarship award, he or she must compose an original essay of 1500 to 2500 words on a topic or issue that relates to the life of Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson and submit it by the contest deadline with a cover page, an annotated bibliography of sources, and a complete and accurate application form.

Essays will be judged according to their historical (80%) and literary (20%) merit. Plagiarized essays will be disqualified. See attached **writing guidelines** for more information.

A scholarship evaluation committee will rate essays and award scholarships in the following amounts:

- 1st place: **\$3,000**
- 2nd place: **\$2,000**
- 3rd place: **\$1,000**

Winning students will be notified in May and monetary awards will be made directly to the recipients’ respective colleges. The committee may choose to make a reduced number of awards, or to make no awards at all, if the essays submitted are judged not to be of sufficient quality to merit a scholarship award.

To qualify, a student must be an Alabama high school senior and a U.S. citizen, and must submit the following on time:

1. A completed application form (see attachment)
2. An **original** essay of 1500-2500 words on some aspect of the life of Stonewall Jackson
3. An **annotated** bibliography of sources (not included in the word count)

Submissions must be postmarked no later than **April 1**.

Mail materials to: Stonewall Jackson Scholarship Program
 c/o Alabama Department of Archives and History
 PO Box 300100
 Montgomery AL 36130-0100

For more information, contact the ADAH Education Coordinator at (334) 353-3288 or kelly.hallberg@archives.alabama.gov.

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Writing Guidelines

In adherence to the Administrative Code of Alabama, Chapter 894-X-1-.03, which governs the awarding of Alabama Stonewall Jackson Memorial Fund scholarships, essays will be judged and rated on their historical and literary quality.

Historical Quality (80%)

Criteria considered in historical quality include historical accuracy, appropriate analysis and interpretation of topic, demonstrated understanding of historical context and perspective, and use of balanced and appropriate research sources as demonstrated in the annotated bibliography.

- **Historical Accuracy** *30 points*
 - Determines that sources are viable and reputable
 - Provides an accurate representation of the facts that are involved
- **Appropriate Analysis and Interpretation** *10 points*
 - Demonstrates critical thinking
 - Develops and defends a historical interpretation
 - Identifies and avoids bias
- **Historical Context and Perspective** *10 points*
 - Presents evidence and arguments correctly in time
 - Illustrates how historical events influenced and were influenced by the social, cultural, political, and economic realities of the time period
- **Annotated Bibliography with appropriate research sources** *30 points*
 - ❖ All historical writing depends on sources. Sources essentially come in two varieties:
 - **Primary sources** are materials produced in the time period under study.
 - **Secondary sources** are materials produced after the time period under study.
 - ❖ An annotated bibliography allows the writer to go beyond a mere listing of sources; it allows for a critical examination of the sources used to craft the essay. Your annotations may do one or more of the following:
 - **Summarize:** If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?
 - **Assess:** Is it a useful source?
 - **Reflect:** How did the source help you shape your argument?

Literary Quality (20%)

Criteria considered in literary quality include originality, organization, grammar and spelling, and adherence to standard citation format.

- **Originality** *5 points*
 - Your originality lies in your talent as a critical reader and a thoughtful writer. "Originality" is the ability to communicate fresh perspectives and new insights. "Originality" also means speaking in your own words.
 - **Plagiarism** occurs when a person uses the words or ideas of another person as if they were their own. This includes, but is not limited to, copying and pasting from the internet, using AI-generated content, copying or purchasing someone else's work to use as your own, and/or paraphrasing someone else's ideas without attributing them to the original author. Plagiarism is a serious offense and means automatic disqualification.
- **Organization** *5 points*
 - An essay must have an introductory paragraph, several body paragraphs, and a conclusion that sums up its most important arguments.
- **Mechanics** *5 points*
 - Use formal written English for your essays.
 - Avoid colloquialisms (e.g., cool, kind of, totally, OK, sort of, etc.).
 - Spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization
 - Proofread your paper carefully. It is also wise to have someone else read your rough draft.
- **Standard Citation Format** *5 points*
 - Use a standard citation style (e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian). Focus on consistency and accuracy.

Final instructions: Provide a cover page that includes your name, the title of your essay, and the date you submitted it. Number the pages of your paper. Double-space your paper and use a standard, twelve-point font. Set the margins at one inch. Include your name on the cover page only.

