

BEN JEFFS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ben Jeffs and his wife Bessie moved from Kansas to Missaukee County around 1916 to oversee operations of the Porter Ranch located between Merritt and Houghton Lake Heights. Because the landowners lived in Chicago, Mr. Jeffs himself managed the farm for 30 years.

Mr. Jeffs, a graduate of Kansas State Agricultural College, had interests in more than just cattle ranching. Over time, he added sheep ranching, muck farming (the growing of celery and mint), a large blueberry operation, and more. Years later, ownership passed to the Department of Natural Resources, and the DNR conducted intensive studies on how to increase the deer herd.

Mr. Jeffs retired in 1946, renting a room at the Willard House, a well-known local establishment in Lake City. His 24 retirement years were active and productive. He served as chairman of the Missaukee Road Commission, President of the Michigan County Road Association, Executive Secretary of the Road Commission, and as the 1st chairman of the Missaukee County Parks Commission. He was selected as the Lake City Citizen of the year in 1970.

The Lake City Educational Foundation was notified after Ben's death in 1970 that he had willed his oil, gas, and mineral rights to the foundation to be used for educational scholarships. The foundation received an advance from his estate and the first Ben Jeffs Memorial Scholarships were awarded in 1971. In addition the Jeffs will also specified a donation to the Michigan Corporation of the Saladin Shrine Foundation to be used exclusively for the benefit of crippled children. Mr. Jeffs was an accomplished and generous man whose philanthropic endeavors continue to benefit young people in Lake City today.

BEN JEFFS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

General Information

- The annual scholarship amount is typically a minimum of \$500, depending on oil, gas and mineral royalties.
- The Cadillac Area Foundation oversees the management of the financial investment and ongoing maintenance of the oil, gas and mineral rights to assure ongoing funds are available each year. The Lake Education Foundation (LCEF) Committee reviews all applications and selects recipients for each LC scholarship.
- Applicants must be Lake City High School Seniors who plan to attend a post-secondary program educational program in a university, college or technical trade school.
- Applicants must complete and submit the application according to the guidelines provided on the next page.
Deadline for submission is March 1.
- The Ben Jeffs Memorial Scholarship is payable upon completion of the first semester of post-secondary education with proof (college or trade school transcript) of passing grades.
- Complete the following information and submit this page with your essay.

APPLICANT NAME: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT #: _____ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** _____

BEN JEFFS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The format for this application is a letter to Mr. Ben Jeffs, where you will endeavor to convince him that you are a worthy recipient of this scholarship. Mr. Jeffs believed in higher education and the youth of Lake City. Though he did not have children of his own, he wanted to provide financial assistance to ensure educational success for future generations. In writing this letter to him, it is important for you to help him to understand how your personal circumstances, accomplishments and future aspirations all combine to make you deserving of this funding.

There is a quote that exemplifies Mr. Jeffs and the extraordinary life he led: ***“Every single thing that has happened to you in your life is preparing you for a moment that is yet to come”***. Consider this quote as a way to frame your letter to Mr. Jeffs. In the spirit of how Mr. Jeffs gave back so much to his community, think about what kind of an exemplary citizen you hope to be in your community wherever that may be.

Your application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Format:** This is a personal letter, so the format should reflect that
 - Typed, double spaced in a 12 point font.
 - Margins should be 1”
 - Length of the letter should be a minimum of two pages, not to exceed four pages.
 - Readability: Minimal (preferably none) spelling, grammatical or sentence structure errors. Please proof read and spell/grammar check your letter before submission.

- **Content:** Please include an overview of the following areas *as they pertain to you*:
 - Relevant personal circumstances (a personal challenge and / or a significant success; your family, financial need, something few people know about you, etc.)
 - Personal Accomplishments (volunteerism, community service, extra-curricular activities, leadership roles, working while going to school, special areas of interest you have excelled in, etc.)
 - Future Aspirations (What do you want to study and where do you hope to do that? Why is this area of study important to you or why do you see it as a good fit for you? Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?)
 - Financial Need (please explain if you have a financial need and if so, why this is important to support your educational goals)
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- **Communication of Ideas:** It is important to convey your thoughts and ideas in a clear and articulate manner. For example, it is easy to just list accomplishments, but try to expand your thoughts to reflect some level of analysis of the examples you provide in this letter to Mr. Jeffs. Keep the quote above in mind as you have this personal (albeit one-sided) conversation with Mr. Jeffs.

The application deadline is March 1.

Please submit your application including these 2 pages and your essay to the Lake City High School Counselor. For further information, or questions regarding this Scholarship Program or application process, please contact your High School counselor.

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