

**Past scholarship recipients have commented...**

...I am certain the other finalists would agree with me that we took so much more from this competition in addition to your generous monetary award. I am so grateful that your scholarship served as the impetus for a program that I truly believe will endure at Rock Island High School for years to come.

...This scholarship was been an amazing experience and opportunity. Not only was I rewarded with a generous scholarship to help further my education, but an irreplaceable experience and a whole new level of knowledge, compassion and understanding. I also can see that this whole process has prepared me for future accomplishments. Public speaking, presentation skills, organization, time management and creativity were just a few of the qualities I personally benefited from during this project. Although I will apply for several other scholarships, I can guarantee that I will not get half as much out of them as I have the Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship.

**QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT INFORMATION?  
Go to...  
[www.aboveandbeyondscholarship.com](http://www.aboveandbeyondscholarship.com)**

**Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship**

**Est. 2004**



**Thoms Family  
\$5000  
Above  
—and—  
Beyond  
Scholarship  
& Cash Awards**

**NOT BASED ON GRADES, TEST SCORES OR ESSAYS**

## To go above & beyond...

Great accomplishments are not typically brought about by mediocre men and women. They are brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership who have gone above and beyond. The Thoms Family believes in equal opportunity for all including the opportunity to rise to leadership by going above and beyond.

## What is the Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship?

The Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship identifies and honors Rock Island High School Juniors who demonstrate problem solving, organizational, and leadership skills in projects of their own choosing. The program overlaps the spring of the junior and fall of the senior year. Approximately five juniors are chosen each year to participate.

## Grades? Test Scores?

Applicants are chosen on the basis of their stated project goal and their detailed plans to accomplish that goal. The Thoms Family believes in equal opportunity for all. Essays, grades, class rank, and test scores are not utilized to determine participation. Details on writing a project proposal are included on the following page.

## Application Deadline

**Mid-April of Junior Year** See application or website for specific deadlines.

## How do I benefit?

Earn \$500 for participating and become eligible for a \$5000 scholarship! Work hard, accomplish your goal and earn your rewards. Learn skills essential for success in the world you enter after high school:

- Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Time Management
- Project Management
- Presentation Skills

## Am I eligible?

You are eligible if you are a junior at Rock Island High School in the spring of this year and a senior this coming fall.

## How do I participate?

Think of an area of interest you want to explore related to business/entrepreneurship, conservation, engineering/technology, community service, politics or public service.

Fill out the application, including a clear statement of your goal. (Yes, your goal can be to earn money!) Write a proposal for accomplishing your goal.

**Important Dates** See application or website for specific deadlines.

**Mid-April of Junior Year...**Application Due

**Early-May of Junior Year...**Notify Applicants of Acceptance

**Mid-June Between Junior & Senior Year...**Accepted Applicants Orientation Meeting

**Mid-November of Senior Year...**Accepted Applicants Having Completed Project Meet  
& Present Completed Projects—All Finalists Receive \$500

**Mid-January of Senior Year...**\$5000 Scholarship Winner Announced

**Fall of 1st Year of College...**Winner Receives First Half of Scholarship

**Fall of 2nd Year of College...**Winner Receives Second Half of Scholarship

## How do I write this proposal?

With your application form, send a proposal for a project which demonstrates problem solving and organizational skills. The proposal must include at least one sentence to clearly state the project and realistic goals. Your project should fit one of these categories: entrepreneurship, conservation, engineering/technology, humanitarian/community service or public service.

Your project should be something of compelling interest to you, something you want to work hard to accomplish. **IMPORTANT: Make sure your project is realistic and doable by you, with help from others as needed. This should be a project you have thought of, not a class project. Your project can be entrepreneurial; you can make money. You need to show an outcome from your work. If your project is designed to be an ongoing program, tell what steps you will take to keep it going after you graduate.**

## SUGGESTIONS:

- For clarity, outline your proposal before you write it. Answer these questions: Why? Who? What? Where? When? How?
- Clearly state the project and the proposed solutions. What makes your approach special? The approach to the issue and an innovative solution are important. Show reasonable expectation of accomplishment.
- Write the proposal in words you know. Keep your language clear and simple. Clearly define any specialized vocabulary. Use action words to describe what you are proposing and what you have already done. Avoid words like “could,” “may,” “if,” etc. For instance, avoid a sentence like “I could (accomplish my goal) if I get permission” or “I plan to talk to my principal to see if I can do this.” Get permissions or do other necessary steps before submitting the proposal.
- Read your proposal out loud to someone you respect (parent, teacher or other adult). Do they understand your project and the steps you are proposing to complete the project?
- If you have questions, be sure to contact your Rock Island High School guidance counselor or history teacher.