



Branches for the Lake Scholarship Opportunities

Supporting the Next Generation of Leaders at the Lake of the Ozarks

Branches for the Lake is proud to offer two scholarship opportunities for graduated or graduating high school students in the Lake area. These scholarships are open to any student who meets the criteria, regardless of school district.

Janice Gentile Future Educators Scholarship

For students pursuing a degree in teaching or education-related fields. Honors a lifelong educator and community leader.

Wrendy Marcinik Wellness Scholarship

For students pursuing careers in wellness, holistic health, or personal care such as cosmetology, massage therapy, and esthetics.

Eligibility:

- Graduated or graduating high school students in the Lake of the Ozarks area
- Must meet scholarship-specific criteria
- Demonstrate character, commitment, and community impact

Application Deadline: April 25, 2026

Award Announcement: May 1, 2026

Apply Here: <https://branchesforthelake.org/events/>

Questions? Contact us at branches4tl@gmail.com

Investing in people. Strengthening our community. One connection at a time.



Branches for the Lake Scholarship Program

***Janice Gentile* Future Educators Scholarship**

Teaching & Education Careers

Purpose:

This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in teaching or education. Applicants must intend to enroll in an education-related program and demonstrate a commitment to working with youth and strengthening their community.

Applicant Information:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

High School: _____

Graduation Date: _____

Education Plans:

College/University: _____

Intended Major (Education Field): _____

Grade Level You Hope to Teach: _____

Expected Start Date: _____

Academic Information:

GPA: _____

Class Rank (if applicable): _____

ACT/SAT Score (optional): _____

Section 1: Experience Working with Youth:

1. What experience do you have working with children or youth (babysitting, tutoring, coaching, volunteering, etc.)?
2. What did you learn from these experiences?

Section 2: Why Do You Want to Become a Teacher? (300–500 words)

Please clearly answer the following in your response:

- What inspired you to pursue a career in education?
- Describe a teacher, coach, or mentor who impacted your life and how they influenced you.
- What kind of teacher do you hope to become?

Section 3: Education & Community Impact (300–500 words)

Please clearly answer the following:

- Why is education important to a strong community?
- What challenges do you see students facing today?
- How will you help students succeed both academically and personally?

Section 4: Personal Growth & Resilience (250–400 words)

Please clearly answer the following:

- Describe a challenge or obstacle you have faced.
 - How did you handle it?
 - How will this experience influence the way you support your future students?
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Section 5: Commitment to the Local Community (250–400 words)

Please clearly answer the following:

- Do you plan to return to or serve the Lake of the Ozarks community after completing your education?
 - Why or why not?
 - If yes, what impact do you hope to make as a teacher in this community?
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Financial Consideration (Optional):

Briefly describe any financial barriers you may face in continuing your education.

Reference (Teacher or School Official Preferred):

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Signature:

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): _____

Application Submission Instructions

To ensure your application is reviewed fairly and completely, please follow these guidelines when preparing your responses:

- All essay responses must be typed.
- Use a standard, easy-to-read font (such as Times New Roman or Arial, 11–12 pt).
- Essays must be double-spaced with standard 1-inch margins.
- Clearly label each section (Section 1, Section 2, etc.).
- Please include your name at the top of each page.
- Stay within the suggested word counts for each section.
- Be thoughtful, specific, and personal in your responses.
- Incomplete or handwritten applications may not be considered.

Applications must be submitted by *April 25, 2026*.

Please email them to branches4tl@gmail.com.

**Or you may mail them to:
Branches for the Lake, Inc.
980 Airport Road, Suite B
*Osage Beach, MO 65065***

Please direct any questions to the email above.

Recipients will be chosen by May 1, 2026. Late submissions may not be accepted.

How Your Application Will Be Evaluated (Rubric Summary)

Our review committee uses the following criteria when evaluating applications. Strong applicants will clearly address each area in their responses:

- **Commitment to Teaching (20 points)**

Clear passion for becoming an educator and a strong understanding of the role.

- **Community Impact (20 points)**

Demonstrates a desire to positively influence students and contribute to the community.

- **Experience with Youth (20 points)**

Relevant experience working with children, mentoring, or leadership.

- **Character & Resilience (20 points)**

Evidence of perseverance, responsibility, and personal growth.

- **Future Goals & Vision (10 points)**

Clear direction and thoughtful career goals in education.

- **Financial Need (10 points – optional consideration)**

Consideration of financial barriers to continuing education.

Finalists may be contacted for a brief interview. Scholarship recipients may also be invited to stay connected with Branches for the Lake through mentorship and community involvement opportunities.