



PFLAG Sauk Valley  
c/o First Presbyterian Church  
410 2nd Ave.  
Sterling, IL 61081

January 3, 2026

Dear Counselor,

PFLAG Sauk Valley is pleased to announce the availability of two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each for graduating seniors from area high schools who are any color of the diversity rainbow or who are straight allies who have provided direct allyship in our community. Scholarships may be applied to a university or college, a technical school, or performing arts school or art college.

Interested students must submit **an application form**, a **300-word essay** explaining involvement in the LGBTQIA+ community, and **two letters of recommendation**. Grade point average will also be taken into consideration and must be confirmed with submission of **school transcript**. We have included a scoring rubric that will be used to rank applicants. We ask that you share this rubric with potential applicants.

Unless an earlier deadline is established by an applicant's school, the due date for applications, including accompanying paperwork, will be Friday, March 27, 2026. Applications should be mailed to PFLAG Sauk Valley, c/o First Presbyterian Church, 410 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081.

National PFLAG was organized to **provide support** for LGBTQIA+ people and their families and friends, to **provide education** to the public in order to dispel myths about the LGBTQIA+ community, and to **engage in advocacy** to change laws that affect the LGBTQIA+ community. To learn more about the local chapter of PFLAG, please visit our website at [PFLAGSaukValley.org](https://PFLAGSaukValley.org).

Sincerely,  
Dana Francis  
PFLAG Sauk Valley Scholarship Committee Chairperson

815.408.0604  
[pflagsaukvalley@gmail.com](mailto:pflagsaukvalley@gmail.com)



## 2026 PFLAG Sauk Valley Scholarship Application

Mail applications to:

PFLAG Sauk Valley, c/o First Presbyterian Church, 410 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081

**Deadline is Friday, March 27, 2026**

### Applicant Profile

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House & Street City Zip

Telephone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA \_\_\_\_\_ (Include transcript, unofficial copy is acceptable)

### I identify as:

☐ An LGBTQIA+ individual

- Are your parents aware of your LGBTQIA+ status? Please circle: YES NO
- Are you open to receiving the scholarship publicly if you are selected by having your name read at scholarship award night and/or placed in a newspaper announcement? Your answer will NOT impact your eligibility. Please circle: YES NO

☐ A straight LGBTQIA+ ally

### Two Letters of Reference

Letters may address any or all of the following topics: maturity, leadership ability, self-confidence, self-awareness, intellectual curiosity, initiative, adaptability, personal integrity, respect of different viewpoints.

### Essay: 300+ words

Please submit an essay on your involvement in the LGBTQIA+ community as a member or ally. Include any leadership role you have played and/or describe obstacles you have had to overcome in order to be an active member of the LGBTQIA+ or ally community. Also, address ways in which you plan to continue your involvement. [Type or write neatly as a separate document.]

## Short Answer

What are your future educational plans (college, vocational, etc.), both for the fall of 2026 & beyond?

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What school honors or recognitions have you received?

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Please **list** some of the groups or activities in which you are, or have been, active within the LGBTQIA+ community.

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Briefly describe any other job(s) and/or on-going volunteer position(s) you've held. Include any community service events in which you've been involved, particularly if you've played a leadership role. What have you gained from those experiences?

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What are your interests, hobbies, or extra-curricular activities? Choose one and tell how it has affected your life.

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Explain your financial need for this scholarship.

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

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