2025 Ruth DeYoung Kohler Scholarship for Artistic Excellence

**Application Procedures**

Graduating seniors from Sheboygan County high schools or homeschool students who live in Sheboygan County who plan to pursue a career in the arts are invited to complete an application for the Ruth DeYoung Kohler (RDK) Scholarship for Artistic Excellence. The Kohler Foundation will consider all fields of artistic endeavor. This scholarship awards up to $100,000. Identifying exceptional talent is our primary focus, not grades or test scores.

Specific categories of art have their own submission criteria. In each case, you are asked to submit a portfolio. When video is required, the Kohler Foundation can assist, at no costto the student. Low-quality videos have hampered the committee’s ability to evaluate effectively --- please take advantage of this service to allow your talent to be shown to its fullest extent.

**Application Instructions**

The full application will be submitted to Kohler Foundation electronically via the Kohler Foundation’s online portal found at kohlerfoundation.org/scholarships. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Be prepared to submit:

* Student information
* Transcripts
* Portfolio materials
* Two letters of recommendation. One from a principal, counselor, or teacher and one from a couch, advisor, employer, or community leader, etc.

1. Once the portal has closed, Kohler Foundation’s Scholarship Committee will then review all Sheboygan County applicants.
2. If selected, an in-person interview and discussion of your work will be scheduled. You may feel free to bring recent additions to your portfolio not included in your original application.
3. Kohler Foundation will inform a school representative or homeschool educator, not the applicant directly if an award is to be made. Awards are presented at the high school scholarship ceremonies and are kept a surprise.

**How to Apply**

Submit the application and all supporting materials between **December 2, 2024, and February 16, 2025,** to the scholarship portal found at kohlerfoundation.org/scholarships.

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**Performing Arts**

When evaluating performing arts submissions, the committee takes into consideration the following;

*Instrument*

* Instrumental evaluation is based on a consideration of Tone Production, Technique, Rhythm, Intonation, Interpretation, and Phrasing.
* Composition evaluation is based on a consideration of Musical Ideas, Musical Structure, and Control of Medium.
* Repertoire choices should be imaginative, contrasting (lyrical, virtuoso, dramatic), adventurous, reflecting the artist’s individual choices as if for a recital.

*Voice/Theater*

* Evaluation is based on Tone Production, Technique, Diction, Rhythm, Intonation, Interpretation, and Phrasing.
* A student is judged based on the student’s ability to demonstrate Concentration, Control of Material, Flexibility and Versatility of Voice, Movement, and Expression.

*Dance/Movement*

* Evaluation is based on Technique, Presentation, Musicality, Phrasing, and Artistry.

**Required Material**

* A digital video of the applicant performing must be submitted. Please include a variety of samples to show your range. The length of the submission should not exceed 8 minutes.
* Selections should display a full range of technical skills and interpretive ability.
* The video must be submitted electronically via our online submission process or via wetransfer.com. **Video recording assistance is available through the Kohler Foundation at no charge to the student.** **Please contact Angela Ramey at angela.ramey@kohler.com to request assistance.**
* The student should submit an additional information sheet with their RDK Scholarship application form, listing the following information for EACH piece being performed on the video:
* Playwright/Artist/Composer’s full name
* Title of work(s)
* Total playing time

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**Visual Arts**

When evaluating visual arts submissions, the committee takes into consideration the following;

*Visual Arts/Photography*

* Artist interpretation, level of creativity and originality, and the quality of the artwork and artistic skill demonstrated.
* Portfolio that conveys feelings, creates emotional interest or expresses a visual point of view…demonstrates original thinking, artistic commitment, and a willingness to take creative risks.

*Film and Video*

* Knowledge of film/video production with an emphasis on expressing an artistic point of view, an ability to effectively communicate ideas using moving images, and a willingness to take creative risks.

**Required Material**

Visual Arts & Photography

Students must submit photos of their work via our online submission portal via wetransfer.com. to [angela.ramey@kohler.com](mailto:angela.ramey@kohler.com) . Works submitted should illustrate the student’s best personal works, not necessarily class assignment pieces. Take care to ensure the photos they submit are of high quality, showing work in the best possible light. Each image file should be labeled with the student’s last name and the photo/artwork title or number (ex. 1 -7) in the title of the file.

Film and Video

Film and video production should be approximately four (4) minutes in length. Students submit photos of their work via our online submission form or via wetransfer.com to [angela.ramey@kohler.com](mailto:angela.ramey@kohler.com). Two (2) different productions showing the artistic abilities of the artist are required.

Submit an additional sheet with their application, listing the following information for EACH piece:

- Title of work(s)

- Date completed

- Specific Medium

- Length of video, if applicable

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**Creative Writing**

When evaluating visual arts submissions, the committee takes into consideration the following;

* Language, Originality, Imagination, and Overall Excellence.

**Required Materials**

* Submit a Portfolio of works in one or more of the following categories:

*Poetry* – up to, but not more than six (6) poems

*Short Story* – up to, but not more than three (3) stories (or portions thereof)

*Novel* – a section of a novel preceded by a description of the complete work

*Play or Script* – up to, but not more than two (2) scripts (or portions thereof)

*Expository Writing* – up to, but not more than three (3) essays

* All submissions should be submitted via our online submission form, with the student’s name in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
* Submissions should not exceed 20 pages total.
* Entries must be double-spaced (poetry is an exception).
* Font must be 12 pt. sans serif.