



Dear Educator:

In keeping with the mission of both the Sumter Museum and the former Sumter County Historical Society to stimulate interest in the history of our area, I would like to bring two subjects to your attention. Please see the enclosed announcements on both:

1. The annual **Myrtis Osteen Essay Contest** offered to *all Sumter County high school students*, grades 9–12 this current school year. The First place essay will receive \$300.00. The Second place essay will receive \$200.00. The Third place essay will receive \$100.00. There will be two Honorable Mentions that each receives \$50. All essays must be received by **February 27, 2026**.
2. The **Sumter Museum Scholarship** for 2026 is offered to *high school seniors* who plan to continue their education at the college/university level. This year there will be one \$1,000 scholarship. Completed applications must be received **no later than February 27, 2026**.

Send applications to

Dr. William R. Ferrell, 569 Mattison Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150

Sumter Museum greatly appreciates your help in getting this information distributed to those you deem interested in history. We look forward to receiving their applications and essays. Please feel free to **duplicate all enclosed materials**.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Michael Carraher, NBCT
Sumter Museum, Chairman of Awards & Scholarships
(803) 468-8931
Mike.Carraher@Sumterschools.net



**THE MYRTIS G. OSTEEN
"VALUE OF LOCAL HISTORY TO ME"
ESSAY CONTEST FOR SUMTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The topic is "The Value of Local History to Me". Students should show an understanding of the nature of local history and purpose for its study. The essay should be personalized rather than academic and should not be merely a reflection of research. Students should include a title page with their name and the school they attend. Monetary awards are as follows:

First Prize	-	\$300.00
Second Prize	-	\$200.00
Third Prize	-	\$100.00
Honorable Mentions	-	\$50 (2)

Due Date for Essays—February 27, 2026

A **two to three page essay** contest open to all students enrolled in the high schools of Sumter County, grades 9 through 12.

Winners will read their papers at the Sumter Museum Recognition Program on **Sunday, March 15th** in the Heritage Education Center at the Sumter Museum.

Time: 3:00 PM
Place: *Sumter Museum
Heritage Education Center
122 North Washington Street
(across from Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital)*

Entries should be mailed to:

The Myrtis G. Osteen "Value of History to Me" Essay Contest
Dr. William R. Ferrell
569 Mattison Avenue
Sumter, SC 29150

For more information please call Mr. Michael Carraher, NBCT, Lakewood High School at 803-468-8931, or email mike.carraher@Sumterschools.net



SUMTER MUSEUM SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2026

Sumter Museum will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior graduating in the spring of 2026 in Sumter County.

Applicants must be residents of Sumter County, show academic accomplishments and potential, and should have an interest in pursuing further study in history or other areas of the social sciences.

Applications are available through the guidance departments of local high schools, and at the office of the Sumter Museum, located at 122 North Washington Street. Applications must be received **NO LATER THEN FEBRUARY 27, 2026.**

Applications will be judged by an independent scholarship committee whose decision will be final. Applications will be judged primarily on merit; however, the committee may also consider financial need when appropriate.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the 2026 Sumter Museum Recognition Program on Sunday, March 15th.

Sumter Museum will mail a check for the scholarship amount directly to the college or university in which the recipient has enrolled. The award money is to be used only for academic tuition and/or fees.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

1. Completed application
2. High School transcript
3. SAT/ACT scores
4. Three letters of recommendation
(Guidance counselor, faculty member, pastor/neighbor)

Completed applications together with supporting documents should be sent to:

Sumter Museum Scholarship Program, 569 Mattison Ave., Sumter, SC 29150

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Bob Ferrell, USC Sumter, at 803.938.3762 or by email at bofb@uscsumter.edu



**SUMTER
MUSEUM**

2026 APPLICATION

Sumter Museum Scholarship

1. Name

LAST FIRST MIDDLE

2. Permanent address:

Street/Box City County State Zip

3. SSN _____ DOB _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

4. Current high school _____ Graduation date _____

5. List what you consider to be the most important honors earned in high school:

6. What is your intended major?

7. What are your career goals?

8. Why do you need this scholarship?
