

**Salem Missionary Baptist Church
305 East 21st Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226
Dr. James A. Thornton, Pastor**

**T. J. BOYD SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND
ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA RULES**

High School Seniors, College and Graduate Students who plan to enroll in or return to institutions of higher learning during the 2025 - 2026 academic year are encouraged to apply based upon criteria listed below.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants must be active members of the Salem Missionary Baptist church for at least one year at the time of application.

2. Proof of acceptance to a bonafide and accredited college/university (original letter of acceptance) must be submitted with application.

2a. Subject to Committee discretion and approval,

Vocational/Technical/Trade School (original letter of acceptance) must be submitted with application.

3. If already, in college applicant must submit proof of passing in all grades for the entire year. All applicants must take a minimum of 12 hours per semester.

Graduate students must take a minimum of two (2) courses each semester.

4. A typed essay, three to five pages in length and double spaced (12 pt. font) must be submitted with the application.

5. Application Deadline: Sunday, July 6, 2025

6. Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, August 3, 2025 "Scholarship Awards Day.

7. Recipients must be present to receive the scholarship award, unless proof is submitted to the church office that the applicant must be attending college on that date.

8. Applicant must submit all required documentation to
scholarshipsmbc@gmail.com

Completed application, typed essay, and official high school, college, or graduate school transcript. Include forms verifying participation in Church ministries, extracurricular activities in high school, college and/or community organizations.

Note: There will be no exception to eligibility rules #5 #6 #7 and #8.

THE FOLLOWING POINT SYSTEM WILL BE USED IN THE EVALUATION OF EACH APPLICATION:

1. **Scholastic ability:** Submit an official high school, college, or graduate school transcript for the 2025-2026 academic year with your application. 25%

2. **Participation in church activities or Service: 1- 4 activities.**

maximum 25%: All applicants must submit verification form(s) signed by ministry leaders who are familiar with your participation. 25%

College and Graduate students must submit proof that they have not only reached out to and had meaningful dialogue with at least one member of the Scholarship Committee but must also have attended worship services and actively participated in some church ministry at least four (4) times during the academic school year.

High School Seniors must submit proof of active participation in church ministries during the 2025 -2026 academic school year.

3. Involvement in high school, college vocational/technical/trade school and/or community organizations: 1- 4 activities; maximum 25%

You may submit verification forms or letters detailing your involvement in high school, college and/or community service activities.

4. **Typed Essay:** Three to five pages in length and double spaced (12 pt. font).

Essay must demonstrate the writer's understanding of the topic, evidence of the

Writer & efforts at gathering supporting information and, with correct use of grammar, provide thoughtful and critical analyses and perspectives on the subject matter.
Maximum 25%

Artificial Intelligence: Essays will be written in your own voice, unaided by the use of any Artificial Intelligence software. All essays will be examined through an

Artificial Intelligence authentication program. If it is determined that an essay has been aided by Artificial intelligence, the applicant will lose 25% of the intended scholarship award.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING ESSAY TOPICS: Kindly specify on the first page which essay question you have chosen at the top of the page (i.e., Question 1, 2 or 3.

- 1. If you had to choose one issue that is of major concern to you (i.e., global food crisis; crime in the city/local; racism). What would it be? Explain.**
- 2. SPORTS IN EDUCATION: Do you believe the integration of a sports curriculum in education is important and beneficial to a student's academic success? Please discuss.**
- 3. How do you think attending college will change your outlook on life? Please share with the Committee the major subject you plan to pursue, and why you have made this choice. In what ways are you expecting this journey – going to college and attaining this degree - to open economic doors and prepare you for your future?**

COLLEGE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING ESSAY TOPICS: Kindly specify on the first page which essay question you have chosen at the top of the page (i.e., Question 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5).

1. The executive branch of government (President Trump in particular) has given executive orders to roll back DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies. These policies will affect the opportunity of persons of color and other ethnic populations to have the opportunity to compete for jobs and receive assistance in entering into institutions of higher learning and other organizations. Do you think these policies will affect you as you look forward to advancing your education and career? Do you think these policies will impact our nation positively or negatively? Please explain.

2. In 2023, 36.8 million people were in poverty in the USA. There is a movement that views a Guaranteed Income as the most effective treatment for poverty. That is, simply give people money [no strings attached], let them decide what to do with it rather than impose rules. Chicago and Los Angeles are the two biggest publicly funded programs. What is your opinion? Do you see benefits in such plans? Please explain in depth.

3. The current administration has taken extreme action in abolishing the U.S Department of Education, resulting in the destabilizing and underfunding of public schools. If you are a product of the public school system, what do you think of this mandate and its impact? Explain.

4. Grief is a part of life. It is an emotion not to be avoided but acknowledged and "walk through". Deep Brain AI has developed an artificial intelligence device, "Re: memory" to help individuals coping with loss to communicate with their deceased loved one by means of digital replicas. Is this a Pandora's box? Why or why not? Explain in depth. Matters of heart and conscience: How have you personally dealt with grief, if applicable. Would you purchase a subscription if such were offered? Why or why not. Explain.

5. In 2021, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) updated its policies to allow student athletes to receive compensation for the use of their names, images, and likenesses (NIL). This policy change allows college athletes to participate in endorsements, sign autographs, and engage in other paid activities. Should college students be paid for playing sports? What impact will this have on students' education? What are the pros and cons of compensating student athletes?