

# The Esther Scholarship Award

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The Biblical character Esther faced many hardships and great difficulties in her young life. To say that she was an “over-comer,” would not even begin to describe the brave young Esther. She had been orphaned as a child, adopted by her uncle, and later forced away from her family and friends and into a strange life in the King’s Palace of a distant land. Living there was more difficult than it sounds, with its many new traditions and customs as well as religious practices. Many of the things she faced would have been considered very disturbing to a person who had been raised in her culture and ethnic background. Then to make matters worse, she was one of an entire group of people that faced certain death, extermination, if she, the queen did not speak up for her people. But speaking up and disclosing her race and religion as well as approaching the king without an invitation, could have actually cost Esther her life! She believed and bravely acted upon what her uncle told her, “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal positions for such a time as this?” ~Esther 4:14 NIV translation. Because she acted bravely and selflessly, an entire race of people were saved and she was rewarded for her efforts!

Perhaps you have never experienced adversity that could actually cost you your very life! **But maybe you have experienced something that was very difficult and challenging for you to overcome. And perhaps you did something amazing to help others through the experiences, lessons and compassion that you learned through your difficult journey.** The Esther Scholarship Award is available for a deserving young woman who knows what it is like to go through adversity, and **not only overcome the obstacles for herself, but who helped others in the process.** It is our strong belief that the Miss Oklahoma Organization is about raising up smart and intelligent young women who will be tomorrow’s leaders. But it is also about exhibiting character that surpasses beauty and intellect. It is about using your title as well as life experiences to help others, especially when life can be challenging. You have all been chosen for leadership positions as title holders from your local pageants.

Whether you win the crown of Miss Oklahoma or not, you have been given a unique opportunity to help those around you. “Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” **To submit your application for this scholarship award, please e-mail a short essay telling your story and what you did to help others through the experience you gained through hardship and difficulty.**

At least a \$3,000 will be awarded for The Esther Scholarship

- Your submission should be 600 words or less – Word Document
- Put your name and local title located at the top of document
- Submit via email to [jack@missoklahoma.org](mailto:jack@missoklahoma.org). **Your submission must be e-mailed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7th, 2021 to qualify.** Email your submission to [Jack@missoklahoma.org](mailto:Jack@missoklahoma.org). Award will be given during the week of the Miss Oklahoma competition. **Submissions will be kept confidential. Only the Phillips family who gives this award will read the essays.**
- **Please email [Jack@missoklahoma.org](mailto:Jack@missoklahoma.org) or call 214-763-5141 if you have any questions!**