

The Julia Smith Memorial Scholarship

Eligible applicants for the Julia Smith Memorial Scholarship must:

- have been a member of a Greater Milwaukee Area Irish dance school for all four years of high school.
 - have competed in a total of at least **eight** feiseanna over the course of all four years of high school with at least **one** of those eight times being the Milwaukee Feis. Please note: a major is not considered a feis.
 - be a 2025 graduate of high school.
 - be registered at an accredited educational institution for the 2025-2026 school year (documentation will be required to award the winner).
 - submit an official Application Cover Sheet, TCRG Verification Form, transcripts and academic information, essays, and all other required documentation/paperwork by **August 1, 2025**.
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The following **FIVE** documents are required:

1. **Application Cover Sheet:** The cover sheet will be used by the impartial recipient of the applications for organizational purposes only. It will be checked for eligibility and then placed in a file separate from the rest of the application packet before being sent to the round one panel of the scholarship committee.
2. **Transcript:** A copy of your most recent transcript showing final grades from 9th-11th grade. You may use an unofficial or official copy of the transcript. This should be uploaded as a single document in PDF format. The purpose of the transcript submission is so the scholarship committee can get an idea of who the applicant is as a student (please note, there is no GPA requirement and it is not a deciding factor). The transcript will be redacted before being sent with the rest of the application packet to the round one panel of the scholarship committee.
3. **TCRG Verification Form:** Please have your teacher fill out the TCRG Verification Form and submit a copy or scanned printed document to make a PDF. This form is solely to verify that you are a current dancer at a registered CLRG school and have met the feis participation requirements. The form will not be seen by any of the application review committee members. Please note that it will only be viewed by the volunteer who does not review any other aspects of the application. This should be uploaded as a single document in PDF format. It will be checked for eligibility and then placed in a file separate from the rest of the application packet before being sent to the round one panel of the scholarship committee.

4. **Resume:** A “resume” listing involvement and accomplishments outside of academics. **Do NOT use your name, the name of your dance school, the name of your dance teachers, or any other way to identify your identity on your resume;** doing so will disqualify you immediately. Please note, this does not need to be a formal resume, but it must include sections a, b, and c listed below.
- a. A current bulleted list of your involvement and accomplishments in Irish dancing. This should include competitive level, major competitions/awards, etc., as well as non-competitive experiences.
 - b. A current bulleted list of your extracurricular activities during high school, including any positions of leadership held. Be very specific in describing/detailing leadership roles and responsibilities. This may include sports, clubs, and activities that are sponsored by your academic school, as well as those sponsored by churches or community organizations.
 - c. A bulleted list/description of any volunteer or service work, as well as any paid work, in which you have been involved during high school. Be very specific in describing/detailing roles and responsibilities of position.
- Each section should have a clear section header and each section should be in a 12-point font.
 - The resume should be uploaded as a single document in PDF or Google docs format.
 - Please title your document as Resume.
 - The resume will be sent with the rest of the application packet to the round one panel of the scholarship committee.
5. **Essays:** For each of the three prompts described below, develop a short, well-written, well-supported essay that responds to the prompt. Be specific, provide examples and explanations, and focus your essay on what the prompt is asking you to discuss. Each essay is expected to display mechanical and structural accuracy. As with the resume, **do NOT use your name, the name of your dance school, the name of your dance teachers, or any other way to identify your identity on your resume;** doing so will disqualify you immediately.

Please note the following essay requirements:

- Your short essays must be typed, double-spaced, and in a 12 point Arial or Times New Roman font.
- The three essays together should be no longer than three typed pages.
- This should be uploaded as a single document in PDF format.
- Please title the document as Essays.
- The resume will be sent with the rest of the application packet to the round one panel of the scholarship committee.

PROMPT 1

Julia Smith lived her life serving the Milwaukee community. Describe an experience you have had in your community service experiences or in your extra curricular activities (NOT involved with Irish dancing) in which you found that giving of your time and talents proved as valuable to you as it did for whom you volunteered.

PROMPT 2

What life lessons or positive impact has your participation in Irish dance had on you?

PROMPT 3

As an Irish dancer, you have probably heard someone say, "It's just dance." How did that phrase make you feel and how did you respond to the person? Is there something you would say to that person now if you could?

The review of applications will occur as follows:

- Any materials submitted after the submission deadline or by any other method or format than that described in the How to Enter section will NOT be considered.
- All documents/materials submitted will be received by an impartial member of the Milwaukee community with no affiliation to any Irish dance school or Irish dance as a whole. The application packet will be marked with a letter for organizational purposes, the Application and TCRG Verification form will be placed in a file that will be kept by the receiver and separate from the other documents. The transcripts will have the name redacted, and the resume and essay will be checked for anonymity. The application packet consisting of the redacted transcripts, resume, and essays will be passed to the panel of scholarship committee members to be reviewed, evaluated, and ranked.

- The application packet will be reviewed, evaluated, and ranked by the round one panel of scholarship committee members, and those rankings will determine which applicants will move on to a second round for consideration. If there are 15 or less applicants, approximately 50% will be passed on to the second round; 16 or more applicants will result in approximately 25% being passed on to the second round (the exact numbers are at the discretion of the scholarship committee).
- The winner of the \$1000 will be notified prior to the Milwaukee Feis and then announced at the feis on September 27, 2025. Attendance would be greatly appreciated, but we do realize that it might not be possible due to the start of school.
- Please note that all decisions are final and requests for information as to why an applicant did not receive a scholarship will not be addressed.

How to Enter:

- All documents must be submitted at the same time, in **one PDF formatted** document through email.
 - All required materials must be submitted BY YOU.
Schools/counselors/teachers may not submit materials separately. Get copies from your school to submit the required files (remember that unofficial copies are acceptable).
- Your name should only appear on the Application Cover Sheet (document #1), your transcripts, and the TCRG Verification Form (document #3)..
- The name of your dance school and/or dance teacher should only appear on your Application Cover Sheet (document #1) and the TCRG Verification Form (document #3).
- Do NOT include **your name, the name of your dance school, the name of your dance teachers, or any other way to identify your identity on any of the other documents**; doing so will disqualify you immediately.
- The deadline for submission is **August 1, 2025**. Any submissions digitally time stamped past this date will not be considered. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Send completed application documents to: thielenh@matc.edu

Document #1 - Application Cover Sheet

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Secondary: (____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Dance School: _____

I am a 2025 graduate of _____ High School, and I am
registered for Fall 2025 classes at _____.
(Accredited Post-Secondary Institution)

I certify that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge, and I
understand that falsification of information is grounds for disqualification.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Document #3 - TCRG Verification Form

Dancer's Name: _____

Dance School: _____

TCRG's Name: _____

9th Grade:

☐ Competed in _____ feiseanna (insert the amount)

10th Grade:

☐ Competed in _____ feiseanna (insert the amount)

11th Grade:

☐ Competed in _____ feiseanna (insert the amount)

12th Grade:

☐ Competed in _____ feiseanna (insert the amount)

Competed in _____ Milwaukee Feis (insert the amount) Year/s _____

I certify that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that falsification of information is grounds for the applicant's disqualification.

TCRG's Signature: _____ Date: _____