DATE: February 7, 2018

TO: All 2018 High School Graduates and College Students Potentially Eligible to apply for the St. Joseph County 4-H Scholarship Award Program

FROM: Eva Beeker, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development

RE: St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program, Midge Bender Scholarship, and 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship

Congratulations on your impending graduation from high school or ongoing college career! If you are planning to continue your education you will be happy to learn that St. Joseph County has a 4-H scholarship program to assist graduating seniors and college students who are current or former St. Joseph County 4-H members!

There are a total of seven (7) post-high school education scholarships available to be awarded. These scholarships may be applied toward tuition, laboratory fees and/or textbook purchases at any trade school, college or university (with the scholarship being made payable directly to the educational institution).

- **$1,500 Youth Council Scholarship for Most Qualified Candidate**: 2018 is the tenth year the Youth Council has offered a scholarship to an outstanding candidate.
- **$1,000 Youth Council Scholarship for Most Qualified Candidate**: 2018 is the tenth year the Youth Council has offered a scholarship to an exemplary candidate.
- **$750 Youth Council Scholarship**: The Youth Council is offering three (3) scholarships of this amount to excellent candidates.
- **$1,500 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship**: 2018 marks the 17th year that three (3) former St. Joseph County 4-H members will be pooling resources to fund a $1,500 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship donors and their previous 4-H club affiliations include: Bret Comstock (Leonidas Do-Best), Wade Rohrer (Howardsville) and Mike Rumsey (Rolling Clovers). Bret, Wade and Mike feel very strongly about the need to “give back” to the 4-H Youth Program in appreciation for all that 4-H has done for them, including providing the opportunity to develop “life skills” that have helped them become positive, productive members of their communities.
- **$500 “In Memory of Midge Bender Scholarship”**: 2018 is the first year this scholarship is being made available from the St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council.

Please complete the enclosed application or you may download a copy of the 4-H Youth Council scholarship application from the St. Joseph County 4-H website. Eligibility requirements are listed on page one (1) of the application. All eligibility requirements must be met in order to be granted a scholarship interview, so be sure to review the requirements carefully. Completed applications are due in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2018.
Letters of Recommendation and Other Supporting Documents: Please note that you are required to obtain a written recommendation from your 4-H leader of choice (either your club organizational leader or a project leader) (See the 4-H Leader Recommendation Form). Remember to be sure and follow up with your leader of choice to make sure they have submitted the appropriate recommendation form to the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by the Friday, March 2, 2018 deadline noted on the form.

You are also required to submit a copy of your official 4-H Project Completion Record (available from the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office) along with your completed application form, and submit a copy of your official high school/college transcript.

Scholarship Selection Committee: The 4-H Scholarship Selection Committee will include one (1) representative each from the 4-H Youth Council, 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship funding group, and a person from the community.

Required Interview Process: Applicant interviews will be conducted Saturday, March 24 starting at 9:00 a.m., at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension Office. Interviews will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals on a first-come, first-served basis. It is your responsibility to call 269/467-5521 by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 2018 to set up an interview time.

Selection Process Results: All applicants will receive a letter following the interviews informing them of the results of the selection process.

The 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship, In Memory of Midge Bender Scholarship, and the 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program provide excellent opportunities for you to obtain financial support for pursuing your post-high school education. Do not miss this opportunity to put your “4-H career” to work for you as you work toward achievement of your career goals!

Please do not hesitate to call me at 269/467-5521 if you have any questions regarding the 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program, 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship, and/or In Memory of Midge Bender Scholarship.

Deadline Reminder and Check List: Scholarship application forms, plus all required supportive materials, are due in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2018. Only applicants for whom all application-related documents have been received by the March 16 deadline will be granted an interview. Application-related documents due by this deadline include:

1. 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program Application Form (6 pages)
2. 4-H Leader Recommendation Form
3. 4-H Project Completion Record
4. Official copy of your high school/college transcript
5. Contact the MSU Extension Office to schedule interview time (269-467-5521) by March 16, 2018