

2009-10 CAVALIERS/FIRSTMERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Following are the rules for the 2009-10 **Cavaliers/FirstMerit Scholarship Program**:

1. To be eligible for one (1) of the ten (10) scholarships awarded by the Cleveland Cavaliers and FirstMerit Bank, an applicant must attend high school in one of the following counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit or Stark; or one of the following communities: Ashland, Chardon, Huron, Kent, Middlefield, Orrville, Ravenna, Rittman, Sandusky, Streetsboro, Vermilion, Willard, or Wooster.
2. Interested students must complete the official scholarship entry form and enclose a copy of his/her high school transcript reflecting academic achievement through his/her junior year, a letter of recommendation from a faculty member at his/her high school and an essay under 500 words on the following question: "What's the most important lesson you've learned up to this point in your life and how do you plan to apply that lesson going forward." SAT or ACT scores must be submitted if required by the accredited school a student plans to attend.
3. Complete applications must be postmarked by **February 15, 2010**. The scholarship award announcement and presentation will occur on **March 31, 2010**.
4. Alternates will be selected in the case that actual winners do not accept or decide not to attend college or pursue a post-high school education.
5. The Cavaliers and FirstMerit will appoint a committee to screen the applications, interview the twenty (20) semi-finalists and select the ten (10) winners. The committee will include local educators, representatives from FirstMerit Bank, and the Cavaliers Operating Company.
6. The committee will screen applications and award scholarships. The criteria are:
 - Academic Achievement (including SAT or ACT scores)
 - Extracurricular Activity (work experience, community involvement, etc.)
 - Essay
 - Interview
7. Relatives or members of the immediate family of the NBA, FirstMerit Bank and Cavaliers Operating Company/Quicken Loans Arena employees are not eligible to apply for a **Cavaliers/FirstMerit Scholarship**.
8. Participation in basketball is not considered a factor in judging extracurricular achievement since it could jeopardize a winner's NCAA eligibility if he or she intends to play college basketball.