

Mayor's Emerging Leaders (MEL) 2026-2027

Requirements:

- Will receive Committee Meeting dates at the intro meeting in August
- Must attend 6 meetings to qualify for the scholarship
 - Guidelines can be found on the next page
- Must check in with Kimberly, Valerie, and Michelle at each Committee Meeting for attendance
- At least 3 references
- Will not receive end of program certificate if requirements are not met
- Must participate in 3 activities below

Activities:

- An opportunity to meet a few Department Heads and Elected Officials at the intro meeting.
- County versus City Trivia
 - In the Training Room (Suite 104).
- County Parks field trips
- Shadow a department
 - This will be two hours
- First responder Meet and Greet event
- Library Volunteer Opportunity
- Leadership class with Andrew Kester
- Volunteering at Animal Control

Guidelines for Scholarship

During your initial meeting in August, we told you about the possibility of a Mayor's Emerging Leaders' scholarship offered by Montgomery County for your participation in the program. Up to ten \$500 scholarships will be awarded to qualifying students.

Below are the rules. Please read them over carefully.

- Minimum of 500 words
- Preference is typed and double-spaced. Handwritten essays will be accepted for anyone who may not have computer access; however, the writing must be legible.
- Cover sheet with name and chosen topic.
- Chosen topic again on page 1.
- Sources, if any, should be cited in AP format.
- Meeting attendance is an important part of the consideration.
- **The essay must be submitted by midnight on Friday, December 5.**

Each essay will be assigned a number. The names will be anonymous when given to members of the Budget Committee for review. Past participation in meetings is mandatory for scholarship eligibility.

Topics approved by the Budget Committee are:

1. What have I learned about Montgomery County Government through the Mayor's Emerging Leaders Program?
2. How does Montgomery County Government impact the lives of its citizens? (You can write it from an overall perspective or the perspective of the specific committee(s) that you met with.
3. If I were elected as a Montgomery County Commissioner, what would I do to serve my constituents, and how would those actions fit into county government?

Essays may be submitted electronically to me at vjlinares@montgomerytn.gov. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Kimberly Byers at kabyers@montgomerytn.gov.