

Jim Ayers Torchbearer Award

Nomination Form

Submission Deadline: July 31, 2025, 11:59 PM CDT

Submission Method: Online at ayersfoundationtrust.org/torchbearer or email to shannon.haynes@theayersfoundation.org

Questions? Contact cht@theayersfoundation.org or call (731) 234-6612

Section 1: Nominee Information

Full Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Hometown (Rural Tennessee Town): _____

Current Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Are you an Ayers Scholar Alumnus/Alumna? (Yes/No): _____

High School and Graduation year: _____

Post-secondary School and Graduation year: _____

Section 2: Nominator Information

Full Name: _____

Relationship to Nominee (e.g., self, colleague, community member):

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Note: Self-nominations are welcome. If self-nominating, write "Self" in the relationship field.

Section 3: Nomination Statement

Please provide a statement (maximum 500 words) describing the nominee's contributions to their rural Tennessee hometown. Include specific examples of their impact, such as entrepreneurial ventures, business leadership, job creation, community projects, or civic engagement. Explain how their work reflects the legacy of Jim Ayers and the Ayers Foundation's mission of fostering opportunity in rural Tennessee. Explain what they would plan to do with the \$5,000 award- either donation to a local non-profit organization or to a community project aimed at improving their community.

Statement:

Section 4: Supporting Materials (Optional)

1. **Letters of Support** (Up to 2, maximum 250 words each):

- Letter 1 Author Name: _____
Relationship to Nominee: _____
(Attach or paste letter below)

- Letter 2 Author Name: _____
Relationship to Nominee: _____
(Attach or paste letter below)

2. **Additional Documentation** (e.g., links to news articles, project websites, or other relevant media):

- Link/Document 1: _____
- Link/Document 2: _____

Section 5: Certification

I certify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the nominee meets the eligibility criteria (Ayers Scholar alumnus/alumna residing in and contributing to their rural Tennessee hometown).

Nominator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Nominee Signature (if not self-nominated): _____

Date: _____

Instructions

- Complete all required fields (Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5). Section 4 is optional but encouraged.
- Submit online at ayersfoundationtrust.org/torchbearer/ or email a PDF/Word document to shannon.haynes@theayersfoundation.org.
- Ensure submissions are received by July 31, 2025, 11:59 PM CDT.
- Nominees will be verified for eligibility by Ayers Foundation staff.
- Finalists will be announced on August 25, 2025, and the winner will be revealed at the award ceremony on September 17, 2025.

Thank you for recognizing an Ayers Scholar making a difference in rural Tennessee!
#JimAyersAward #AyersScholars #ComeHomeTN