

Rev. Benjamin and Louise Craft, Jr. Education Scholarship



The Jacksonville Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will award **two** Rev. Benjamin and Louise Craft, Jr. Education Scholarships to support the leadership potential of Jacksonville, Arkansas students.

Each scholarship will be in the amount of **\$500.00**.

Candidates for these scholarships must be Jacksonville or Sherwood, Arkansas residents attending any school in Pulaski County. The high school graduating senior must have a minimum grade point average of **3.0**. A high school transcript or an official letter from the school indicating the required GPA must be attached to the application.

*Candidates must also demonstrate outstanding community service or volunteer performance in the Central Arkansas area. Applications must be submitted no later than **May 16, 2025**. Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than **June 6, 2025**.

The scholarship award will be made payable to the applicant and will be awarded at our 1st Freedom Fund Banquet on June 19, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Jacksonville Community Center.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Bailey with any questions at 870-293-9525 or education@naacpjvark.org

You may email your application and essay to education@naacpjvark.org or mail it to the following address by **May 16th**:

**NAACP - Jacksonville Branch #6289
Attention: Education Committee
PO Box 6444
Jacksonville, AR 72078**

Best regards,

Jessica Bailey

1st Vice President



Rev. Benjamin Craft Jr was born on February 5, 1939, to the late Benjamin Sr and Margaret Fulton Craft in Jacksonville, Arkansas. He attended and graduated from Pulaski County Public School.

In July of 1953, Benjamin married Louise Johnson, they were married for 51 years until his death on September 11, 2008.

Rev. Craft was a man of God, loved his family, (Craft and his wife Louise had 6 children), and was always trying to help make things better for the people that entered his life. Throughout his life he held many positions and served them well. He was called into the ministry in 1979; he pastored Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Little Rock for 18 years, then he started the Main Street Bible Church which he pastored until his passing. It is hard to put his life in a short biography; his dedication to his wife, family, church and community; the positions and titles he had are too numerous to tell, some of the positions that he held are; he was the 1st President of the NAACP Jacksonville branch, which was organized in November of 1988. During his presidency he was successful in getting the Jacksonville Civil Service Commission to revise the tests given to police and firefighters, which resulted in the hiring of the first black police and firefighters. Also, through Craft's leadership, attention was focused upon the city's utility department's discriminatory practices in granting promotions. The NAACP wrote, "There are many injustices too numerous to print, that Craft called to the attention of the proper authorities. For his devoted service in promoting civil rights issues, Craft is now being saluted as a "Great Warrior", Craft's accomplishments left an indelible mark upon the community. "

Rev. Craft received countless commendations, awards and certificates of achievement and appreciation; throughout his life he made a lasting impact on the lives of people he encountered. Many people benefited from his bold and aggressive spirit to go against the grain and attack the injustices that were being done to humankind.

May their legacy live on!

Essay Requirements

The applicant must type an essay that answers the following:

1. Give an introduction of yourself.
2. What are your greatest strengths?
3. What are your educational and career goals?
4. Explain your community service or volunteer experience.
5. Why should we select you to receive a scholarship?

Essay design:

- Double spaced with 1-inch margins
- Use size 12 font (Times New Roman or Arial)
- Essay should be no more than 3 pages
- Essay must be a minimum of 750 words

A final decision will be based on the highest cumulative score based on community service or volunteer activities, demonstrated impact of volunteer efforts, and continued commitment to education and leadership.

By submitting a scholarship application, you affirm that the information provided in said application is true and complete to the best of your knowledge.

Checklist:

_____ Application

_____ Essay

_____ Transcript/ Letter from school (GPA)

_____ College Acceptance letter/ any other information you would like to include



Scholarship Application

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

_____ *City State ZIP Code*

Phone: _____ Email _____

Age: _____ High School.: _____

GPA: _____ **(Please submit a school transcript/letter from school)**

Education

Clubs/Organizations: _____

Honors/recognition: _____

College/University Name: _____

College/University Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Phone: _____

Applicant Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____