Scholarship Update: Week of September 1, 2025

Please remember to visit the AC Flora School Counseling Website for a list of ALL scholarships that are available.

https://www.richlandone.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=5323

Here are a few we thought you might be interested in:

The Gates Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - A high school senior
  - From at least one of the following ethnicities: African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native*, Asian & Pacific Islander American, and/or Hispanic American (For American Indian/Alaska Native, proof of tribal enrollment will be required.)
  - Pell-eligible
  - A US citizen, national, or permanent resident
  - In good academic standing with a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)
  - A student must plan to enroll full-time, in a four-year degree program, at a US accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university.

An ideal candidate will have:

- An outstanding academic record in high school (in the top 10% of his/her graduating class)
- Demonstrated leadership ability (e.g., as shown through participation in community service, extracurricular, or other activities)
- Exceptional personal success skills (e.g., emotional maturity, motivation, perseverance, etc.)

Award Amount: full cost of attendance (Cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, and transportation, and may include other personal costs.)
To Apply: https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship
Deadline: September 15, 2025

Palmetto Pride Youth Ambassador Program
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Must be between the ages of **14 – 18.**
  - Currently attending a high school in **South Carolina**
  - **2.5 GPA** or higher.
  - Engaged in school and/or community activities, including participation in sports, clubs, and/or volunteer service.
  - Be prepared to meet all requirements and responsibilities when applying

Award Amount: $1000; and graduation cord
To Apply: https://www.palmettopride.org/get-involved/program/youth-ambassadors/
Deadline: September 15, 2025

South Carolina High School Writing Contest
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - The contest is open to South Carolina high school juniors and seniors in public, private and home schools.
  - All requirements and contest rules found on the site below.

Award Amount: Cash prizes of $1,000, $500 and $250 will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners**.**
To Apply:
https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/honors_college/about/writing_contest/index.php
Deadline: September 29. 2025

Quest bridge National College Match
Eligibility:

- High school seniors, regardless of citizenship, currently attending high school in the U.S. and planning to attend college the fall after graduation, and U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents living abroad
- Earning primarily A's in the most challenging courses offered
- Demonstrating strong writing skills and intellectual curiosity, plus resilience, integrity, and motivation to succeed
- Typically from a household earning less than $65,000 annually with minimal assets (for a household of four members)

Award Amount: free application, be considered for early decision and a full-four year scholarship for their 52 college partners (list on website)
To Apply: https://www.questbridge.org/apply-to-college/programs/national-college-match/the-match-scholarship
Deadline: September 30, 2025

Don't Text and Drive Scholarship
Eligibility:

- You must be a high school freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior or a current or entering college or graduate school student of any level.
- You must also be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.
- Complete all requirements to apply.

Award Amount: $1000
To Apply: http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship
Deadline: September 30, 2025

Coca Cola Scholarship Program

Eligibility:

Applicants must be:

- Current high school (or home-schooled) student attending a school **in the U.S.** (or select DoD schools) who will graduate during the 2025-2026 academic school year
- U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Permanent Residents, Refugees, Asylees, Cuban-Haitian Entrants, or Humanitarian Parolees - based on the guidelines utilized by U.S. Department of Education for Federal Financial Aid eligibility
- Expecting to receive high school diploma during current academic year
- Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution

Applicants may not be:

- Children or grandchildren of current employees, officers, or owners of Coca-Cola bottling companies, The Coca-Cola Company, Company divisions, or subsidiaries.
- Children or grandchildren of former employees who are currently receiving retirement benefits based on their previous employment with Coca-Cola bottling companies, The Coca-Cola Company, Company divisions, or subsidiaries.
- International students (with the exception of students at DoD schools)
- High school graduates
- Temporary residents

Award Amount: $20,000 (150 scholarships available)

To Apply: https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/ccsf

Deadline: September 30, 2025

2025 Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest

Eligibility:

For purposes of this contest:

- The "Eligible States" are defined as the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.
- An "accredited college" is defined as a nonprofit, two- or four-year undergraduate college or university located within one of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia.

To be eligible to enter this contest and to win an award in a Quarterly Contest, at the time of entry, you must:

- Be a legal U.S. resident of one of the Eligible States.
- Be age 16 or older.
- Have at least one (1) year (or at least 18 semester hours) remaining before your undergraduate college graduation.
- If you are not yet in college, begin your freshman year of college no later than the start of the 2026 – 2027 college academic school year.
- As of your most recent school enrollment period, have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 in school (and if no GPA is provided at school, be in "good standing" or the equivalent thereof in school).

*Quarterly Contest prizes must be fully used by the end of the 2026 – 2027 college academic school year, and must be used toward tuition and other undergraduate college-related expenses at an accredited college. Quarterly Contest prizes may not be used toward graduate school (post graduate) tuition or other post-undergraduate program expenses.

Award Amount: $8000

To Apply: https://www.gwcf.org/scholarship
Deadline: September 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025

Chick-Fil-A Community Scholars Program

- **Eligibility:**
  - Be 18 years of age by July 15, 2026.
  - Currently reside* in the United States (U.S.), Puerto Rico, or Canada at time of application and award
  - Be a current
    - High school senior/student in their final year of upper or higher secondary school
    - College/university Undergraduate
    - Graduate student

    AND
  - Planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate or graduate study for the 2026-2027 academic year at an accredited two-year or four-year college or university, or vocational-technical school or CEGEP institution
  - Be involved in community service, extracurricular activities and/or a leadership role in the twelve (12) months prior to application deadline (for example, volunteering for non-profits, helping others less fortunate, tutoring/mentoring, etc.)
  - Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent)
  - Be willing to participate in Chick-fil-A's Scholars Program (a one-year experience of mentoring, activities, and professional development), if selected.
- Chick-fil-A employees and dependents/spouses of employees or Operators are not eligible to apply.
- *Applicants are NOT required to be citizens or permanent residents of either country. Individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) and international students attending college in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or Canada are eligible to apply.

Award Amount: (13) $25,000 scholarships
To Apply: https://apply.scholarsapply.org/cfacommunityscholars/
Deadline: October 28, 2025 (by 3:00 pm)

Big Future Scholarship
Eligibility:

- Must attend a public, private, or home school located in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other US territories and possessions, or are US Citizens or residents who attend a US Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school outside of the US or US territories
- Complete steps on BigFuture to explore careers, plan for college, and pay for college.

Award Amount: Monthly drawings for $500 and $40, 000 (24)
To Apply: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships?ef_id=EAIaIQobChMIwouS4IWTjwMV711HAR3pIDbpEAAYASAAEgIxhfD_BwE:G:s&s_kwcid=AL!4330!3!651257489716!p!!g!!big%20future%20scholarship!16155749505!128350923530&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=16155749505&gbraid=0AAAAAD-SkkyD-F2SMQAGe3ijKJP9oKJCs&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwouS4IWTjwMV711HAR3pIDbpEAAYASAAEgIxhfD_BwE

Deadline: One (1) winner per every two (2) months till January 2025.

- Class of 2026 - Strengthen Your College List - October 31, 2025- next deadline

Most Valuable Student Scholarship – Elks Foundation
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Current high school seniors, or the equivalent, who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply.
  - Applicants **do not** need to be related to a member of the Elks.
  - High school graduates are not eligible to apply.
  - Students must pursue a four-year degree, on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university. It is acceptable for a student to enroll in a two-year college for the first two years of the four-year program.
  - Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their applications are submitted; permanent legal resident status does not qualify.

Award Amount: $1000 - $7500 annual scholarships (500)
To Apply: https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/MVS.cfm
Deadline: November 12, 2025

Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship Program

- **Eligibility**
  - To be eligible for the scholarship the student must:

    - **Fall College Enrollment** – Intend to enroll in an accredited four-year college beginning in fall 2026.
    - **Senior Standing**: Complete four years of high school in the U.S., a U.S. Territory, or on a U.S. military base and plan to graduate in the spring of 2026
    - **GPA** – Earn a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.75 or above.

- **Test Scores** — Submit standardized test score(s) from one of the following: SAT, ACT, AP, or IB exam. There is no minimum score requirement to apply, however, applicants must have taken one (or more) of these tests and submit the score.
- **Income** – Demonstrate unmet financial need. We will consider applicants with family income up to $95,000. During the selection process, the Foundation will conduct a full financial review which will take into account all income and assets of the student and the student's parents.

Selection Process: The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation reviews each College Scholarship Program application individually with the assistance of a committee of educational professionals from across the nation. The criteria used in the selection process are:

- **Academic ability and achievement:** Maintains a strong academic record and receives outstanding recommendations from teachers, shows a desire to be challenged, and demonstrates enthusiasm for learning. Eligible applicants must have a minimum, cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.75.
- **Leadership:** Motivates others, takes initiative, and contributes positively to the community.
- **Persistence:** Exhibits determination when faced with obstacles, goal-oriented, and confronts challenges with an ability to adapt to change.
- **Unmet financial need:** We will consider applicants with a maximum annual gross income of $95,000. Last year's cohort of new College Scholarship recipients had a median family income of approximately $34,000. During the selection process, the Foundation will conduct a full financial review which will take into account all income and assets of the student and the student's parents.

Award: varies; can be up to $55,000 per year (70 awarded last year)

Apply: https://apply.commonapp.org/ - must apply through Common Application add Jack Kent Cooke Foundation as one of your schools

Deadline: November 12, 2025 (Scholarship Opens August 20, 2025)

Hagan Scholarship

- The Hagan Scholarship is a nationwide need-based merit scholarship, providing recipients "regardless of nationality" with the opportunity to achieve their goals and graduate college debt-free.

Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Must attend a high school located in the United States.
  - All high school students eligible regardless of nationality.
  - Must be fluent in the English language.
  - Must be in the high school graduating class.
  - Must have achieved an unweighted 3.50 CGPA based on a 4.0 Grading Scale.
  - Must enroll in an eligible four-year College or University the first fall semester following high school graduation.
  - The scholarship cannot be used to attend a community college, junior college, or online institution.

        - Must maintain a four year or less graduation schedule, or complete the equivalent of a four year degree if in a professional program.
        - Must work 240 hours from January 1, 2026 until September 1, 2026. Work must be regularly scheduled employment performed under supervision for compensation. Employment can be full-time or part-time.
        - Applicant's Adjusted Gross Household Income reported for 2024 Federal Income Tax Purposes must not have exceeded $100,000. "Household Income" is defined as the total income received by all adult members of a household living under the same roof.
        - Applicants are not required to provide FAFSA information. Finalists must provide the FAFSA Summary showing the SAI.
        - Must apply for Federal and State grants if eligible.
    - The intended scholarship recipient is a high-achieving goal-driven student having substantial financial need.

Award Amount: up to $7500 for up to 8 consecutive semesters; Free workshops, Free Schwab Brokerage Accounts, and Free Study Abroad
To Apply: https://haganscholarships.org/
Deadline: December 1, 2025

2025 Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest
Eligibility:
For purposes of this contest:

- The "Eligible States" are defined as the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.
- An "accredited college" is defined as a nonprofit, two- or four-year undergraduate college or university located within one of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia.

To be eligible to enter this contest and to win an award in a Quarterly Contest, at the time of entry, you must:

- Be a legal U.S. resident of one of the Eligible States.
- Be age 16 or older.
- Have at least one (1) year (or at least 18 semester hours) remaining before your undergraduate college graduation.
- If you are not yet in college, begin your freshman year of college no later than the start of the 2026 – 2027 college academic school year.
- As of your most recent school enrollment period, have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 in school (and if no GPA is provided at school, be in "good standing" or the equivalent thereof in school).

*Quarterly Contest prizes must be fully used by the end of the 2026 – 2027 college academic school year, and must be used toward tuition and other undergraduate college-related expenses at an accredited college. Quarterly Contest prizes may not be used toward graduate school (post graduate) tuition or other post-undergraduate program expenses.

Award Amount: $8000

To Apply: https://www.gwcf.org/scholarship
Deadline: September 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Be a graduating, minority high school Senior
  - Be a United States citizen
  - Present evidence of financial need
  - Demonstrate a record of academic excellence
  - Demonstrate leadership potential and a dedication to community service
  - Plan to attend an accredited and JRF approved 4-year college within the United States of affiliated with a United States-based college of university
  - Have not accrued more than 25% of credits needed to graduate from college
  - Complete all application requirements.

Award Amount: up to $35,000 over four years
To Apply: https://jackierobinson.org/scholarship/
Deadline: January 7, 2026

The Profile in Courage Essay Contest
Eligibility:

- Student must be a United States high school students in grades nine through twelve attending public, private, parochial, or home schools; U.S. students under the age of twenty enrolled in a high school correspondence/GED program in any of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, or the U.S. territories; and U.S. citizens attending schools overseas.
- Employees of John Hancock Financial Services and members of their families are not eligible to participate.
- All portions of the application and essay must be complete.
  - Essays can be no more than 1,000 words but must be a minimum of 700 words. Citations and bibliography are not included in the word count.
  - Essays must be the original work of the student. Essays may be checked for AI assistance and are disqualified if AI is detected at any point in the essay or bibliography.
- Essays should not include identifying information about the author.
- Student must have a nominating teacher throughout the essay process.

Award Amount: (1st place) $10.000; (2nd Place) $3000; (3 finalist)$1000
To Apply: https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/education/profile-in-courage-essay-contest/getting-started
Deadline: January 12, 2026

The Washington Crossing Foundation Scholarship
Eligibility:

- High School Senior

- US Citizen
- Planning on a career in service to the United States in local, state, or federal government.
- All portions of the application and essay must be complete, including:
    - Essays
    - Letter of recommendation (from Principal or School Counselor)
    - Resume
    - Transcript
    - Test Scores
    - Additional information explained in the application.

Award Amount: (24 in 2025) from $1000 to $10000 (non-renewable)

To Apply: https://www.gwcf.org/scholarship
Deadline: January 15, 2026

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INC. SCHOLARSHIPS
(9 different scholarships available)
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
- Must be a U S citizen and and meet requirements as a South Carolina resident.
- International, foreign exchange, and doctoral program students are not eligible.
- Must be enrolled as a full time student with a minimum of 12 graded hours of classes as an undergraduate and 9 graded hours of classes as a graduate student.
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
  (Exception Pearl Fryer Award GPA is 2.5 on a 4 point scale}

SELECTION CRITERIA

- All applications received by GCSC Chairman will be judged by that chairman and a committee of 8 in order to choose the winning applications.
- After judging is complete at the state level the SAR and NGC Scholarship Chairmen will receive their application by March 1 for judging.
- The following Sample Scale of Points may be used for evaluation of each application.
  Academic Record 40%
  Applicant's Essay 25%
  List of Honors/ Extracurricular Activities/ Work 13%
  Financial Need 15%
  Recommendations 5%
  Conformance 2%
- GCSC will notify all applicants in writing of the committee's decisions on or before March 15. Winners will be honored at the April GCSC State Meeting.
- Applicants who continue to maintain a 3.0 average are encouraged to apply next year.

Award Amount: range from $500 - $2,000
To Apply: https://gardenclubofsc.org/Scholarships ; the AC Flora School Counseling Office, Class of 2023 Schoology page
Deadline: February 1, 2026

South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship

Eligibility:

- A statewide technical college scholarship program designed to address workforce shortages in South Carolina
- *The scholarship covers any remaining tuition, fees, and required course-related expenses left after applying all other scholarships or grants.*
- **Programs**
  A student must pursue a professional certificate, industry-recognized credential (IRC), diploma or degree from one of the SC Technical College System's 16 colleges. Students can receive the SC•WINS for only one certificate, diploma or degree unless the additional certificate, diploma or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study.
- **Criteria**
  Qualifying students must:
  - Be a South Carolina resident
  - Be enrolled in an eligible program
  - Meet one of the following criteria:
  - Be employed,
  - Take a financial literacy course offered at the technical college, or
  - Complete 100 hours of voluntary time contributing to a nonprofit or public service organization
  - **GPA/Continued Eligibility**
    All credit-seeking students must maintain a 2.0 GPA each academic year.
  - **Changing Majors**
    Changing majors is allowed within the acceptable disciplines in workforce program areas.
  - **Covered Expenses**
    Recipients can receive up to $5,000 per academic year after applying all other scholarships or grants. The scholarship may cover the cost of tuition, fees, and course-related expenses.
- Visit your local technical college for more information