Scholarship Update: Week of January 12, 2026

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 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 sponsors 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 must have a minimum of five sources.
- 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

South Carolina Junior Golf Foundation Scholarships
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
    - Must be a resident of South Carolina
    - Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale through the spring 2022 semester
    - Must attend demonstrate community involvement through service/volunteer work
    - Must have a competitive or recreational interest in golf
    - Must demonstrate financial need

Award Amount: varies
To Apply: https://www.scholarshipprograms.org/golf/
Deadline: January 15, 2026

Mensa Foundation Scholarship
Eligibility:

- Only one application is allowed per student in this scholarship competition.
- Applicants must intend to enroll in an accredited educational institution for the 2025-26 academic year.
- Applicants must complete all required information on the entry form. Complete the online application form via the Mensa Foundation's Award Spring scholarship portal.
- Essays must be the applicants' original work and no more than 550 words in length.
- Applicants' names, addresses, and other identifying information **must not** be included in their essays.
- By submitting the form electronically via our website, applicants provide their digital signature certifying that their information and essays are their own work and that they have read these rules and guidelines.
- Applications must be submitted online on or before 11:59 p.m., CST (Central Standard Time) January 15, 2026, or 05:59 a.m. GMT (Greenwich Mean Time), on January 16, 2026.

Award Amount: awards more then $200,000 each year through various scholarships
To Apply: https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/
Deadline: January 15, 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

Penguin Random House Creative Writing Scholarship
Eligibility:

- Be current high school seniors at a public high school in the United States graduating Spring of 2026
- Be 21 years of age and under

- Plan to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or approved vocational-technical school Fall 2026
- Submit one original literary composition in English in one of the following genres of poetry, spoken word, fiction, personal essay/memoir, or book bans prompt.
    -
        - All submissions must be typed, double-spaced with a minimum 12 point font size and no longer than 10 pages.
        - All submissions with multiple pages must be numbered with a page number and total number of pages (Ex. 1/3, 2/3, 3/3).
        - A four-page minimum is recommended for the fiction genre.
        - Spoken word entries must upload a typed entry along with an emailed audio format file.
        - Only one entry per student may be submitted and considered.
        - Freedom of Expression entries must write about the provided topic:

Book bans are on the rise in America, driven by new laws and regulations limiting the kinds of books young people can access—and books by and/or about LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities are disproportionately targeted. Penguin Random House and We Need Diverse Books believe books change lives, and that everyone deserves to see themselves in a book.

Freedom of Expression Prompt: In the face of these book bans and attacks on free expression, we are celebrating the power of books and stories. Tell us about one banned book that changed your life and why.

- ***Only the first 1,000 applications will be accepted.***
- ***Family members, employees of Bertelsmann, Penguin Random House, its subsidiaries, divisions or affiliates are ineligible.***
- ***Entries that have won previous awards are not eligible.***

Award Amount: (6) $10000 (over 4 years)

To Apply: https://scholarshipamerica.org/scholarship/penguinrandomhouse/
Deadline: January 15, 2026

FOSSI STEM Scholarship
Eligibility:

- Be a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States
- Complete or have completed high school with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted) and be entering their freshman year of college
- Pursue studies in a pertinent chemical and engineering industry STEM field. See preferred majors
- Attend an HBCU for the entirety of their college education
- Have interest in pursuing a career in chemical manufacturing, engineering, environmental health and sustainability or other related chemical-industry fields
- Demonstrate financial need

Award Amount: up to $40,000
To Apply: https://futureofstemscholars.org/FOSSI/apply#p-47111
Deadline: January 15, 2026

Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship
Eligibility:

- Planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science, software engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, robotics, or other computer science related field of study and are planning to attend an accredited 4-year college or university in the United States (or an accredited 2-year college, with the intent to transfer to a 4-year institution).
- If you have taken computer science or hardware engineering classes in high school or at a college dual program, or currently be enrolled in one.
    - Examples include:
        - International Baccalaureate Computer Science Course
        - Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science
        - A or AP Computer Science Principles
        - Computer science through a college dual enrollment program
        - Engineering
        - Robotics
        - Physical Computing
        - Design Mechanics
        - Computer Manufacturing
        - Aerospace Engineering
        - If you have not, you can take a qualifying exam offered by Amazon.
- **Be a high school senior with a 2.3 cumulative GPA**
- Be a United States citizens, United States permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card), or Employment Authorized to work in the United States. Employment authorization must be valid for at least 2 years.

Award Amount: up to $40,000
To Apply: https://scholarshipamerica.org/amazonfutureengineer/
Deadline: January 16, 2026

Harry Hampton Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
    - The applicant must be a full time resident of South Carolina and a senior in a public or private high school in South Carolina.
    - The recipient must attend an institution of higher learning in South Carolina.
    - The recipient must have a major in the natural resources discipline such as: wildlife biology, fisheries biology, forestry, marine science or environmental science to qualify.(NOTE: General biology, pre-medical biology and veterinary science are NOT eligible for this scholarship.)
    - The recipient must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above for a given academic year to receive funds for the following year. If the GPA falls below the 2.5 average for any academic year, the student will not receive any further funds, and a new recipient will be sought.

Award Amount: $5,000 (yearly for 4 years)
To Apply: https://hamptonwildlifefund.org/scholarships/
Deadline: January 30, 2026

Thomas Webster Hardwick Jr. Scholarship:
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - The applicant must be a full time resident of South Carolina and a senior in a public or private high school in South Carolina.
  - The recipient must attend an institution of higher learning in South Carolina.
  - The recipient must have a major in the natural resources discipline such as: wildlife biology, fisheries biology, forestry, marine science or environmental science to qualify.(NOTE: General biology, pre-medical biology and veterinary science are NOT eligible for this scholarship.)
  - The recipient must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above for a given academic year to receive funds for the following year. If the GPA falls below the 2.5 average for any academic year, the student will not receive any further funds, and a new recipient will be sought.

Award Amount: $5,000 (yearly for 4 years)
To Apply: https://hamptonwildlifefund.org/scholarships/
Deadline: January 30, 2026

Wallace F. Pate Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Be a South Carolina graduating Senior
  - Complete application fully
  - Plan to further education in the natural resources discipline such as wildlife biology, fisheries biology, forestry, or marine or environmental science

Award Amount: $2,500 (for 1 year)
To Apply: https://hamptonwildlifefund.org/scholarships/
Deadline: January 30, 2026

David M. Cline Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Be a South Carolina graduating Senior
  - Complete application fully
  - Plan to further education in law enforcement/criminal justice/forensic science

Award Amount: $2,000 (yearly for 1 year)
To Apply: www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/scholarship.html
Deadline: January 30, 2026

James O. Thomason Scholarship

Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Be a South Carolina graduating Senior
  - Complete application fully
  - Plan to further education in electronic, print or photo journalism, advertising, public relations, or mass communications
  - The recipient must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above for a given academic year to receive funds for the following year. If the GPA falls below the 2.5 average for any academic year, the student will not receive any further funds, and a new recipient will be sought.

Award Amount: $2,000 (yearly for 4 years)
To Apply: www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/scholarship.html
Deadline: January 30, 2026

Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR) Scholarship

Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - An applicant must be a United States (US) citizen. Proof of US citizenship includes the following documents: a US birth certificate, a current US passport, or government-issued naturalization papers.
  - An applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university in the United States.
  - Please review each scholarship's description for specific eligibility criteria

Award Amount: varies (multiple scholarships available)
To Apply: https://dar.academicworks.com
Deadline: January 31, 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

SME Education Foundation Scholarship
Eligibility:

- **One application can apply you for multiple scholarships**
- Must be a permanent resident or citizen of the United States or Canada.
- Must have minimum of 2.0/4.0 GPA or higher.
- Must be on a path toward an associate, bachelor's or graduate degree in manufacturing engineering, technology, or closely related field at an accredited college or university in the United States or Canada.

Award Amount: varies
To Apply: https://www.smeef.org/sme-education-foundation-scholarships/scholarship-opportunities/
Deadline: February 1, 2026

Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Program
Eligibility:

- Complete all requirements to apply Students must currently be enrolled in twelfth grade in a public school in South Carolina.
- Students must plan to attend a South Carolina college or university.
- Students must be a U.S. citizen and have attended public school in South Carolina for the past two years.
- Students may only apply for one scholarship.
- **What is it?** The Archibald Rutledge Scholarship program, named for South Carolina's first poet laureate, offers twelfth-grade students (enrolled in a public school in South Carolina) the opportunity to compete for a scholarship in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, or visual arts as well as encourages and recognizes academic and artistic excellence among South Carolina students.
- **What does the program include**? Students will mail or deliver original compositions, process folios, and other required documentation in one of the five arts disciplines (creative writing, dance, music, theatre, or visual arts) to the South Carolina Department of Education.

Award Amount: (5) $2000 scholarships available

To Apply: https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/grants-and-awards/archibald-rutledge-scholarship-program/
Deadline: February 2, 2026

Kitty M. Fairey Educational Fund Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Be enrolled or plan to enroll to a full-time accredited college or university in the state of South Carolina
  - A cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
  - Demonstrate financial need

Award Amount: varies
To Apply: https://www.csascholars.org/kmfr/
Deadline: February 5, 2026

James F. Byrnes Foundation Scholarships
Eligibility:

To be eligible for the James F. Byrnes Scholarship, a student must meet the following qualifications:
• have one or both parents deceased
• be a United States citizen and a South Carolina resident
• have need of financial assistance to attend college
• be a current senior in high school
• have a satisfactory academic record
• plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited four-year college or university

Award Amount: $4500, renewable for four years
To Apply: https://www.byrnesscholars.org/index.php
Deadline: February 6, 2026 (mailed to the address requested) **(OPENS DECEMBER 5, 2025)**

SC Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Annual Journalism Contest
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - must be a South Carolinian 16 to 19 years old;
    • must not have entered a post-secondary school before March 1, 2026; and
    • must be a high school senior, or otherwise qualified to begin post-secondary education no later than the 2026-2027 school year.
  - You do not have to have a disability to enter.
  - Student must verify financial need

Award Amount: 4 year scholarship to the South Carolina state- supported institution of his/her choice if the winner meets all qualifications for acceptance to the college/university

- **To Apply:** https://www.scvrd.net/172/Annual-Journalism-Contest

Deadline: February 6, 2026

Horatio Alger Association Scholarship Program
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:

- Be enrolled full time as a high school senior in the United States
- Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree at one of the target colleges/universities on our website
- Demonstrate financial need ($100,000 or lower household income)
- Be involved in co-curricular and community service activities
- Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity
- Minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0
- Be a United States citizen

Award Amount: Vary (funds can be used for any line-item in the Cost of Attendance)
To Apply: https://horatioalger.org/scholarships-and-services/undergraduate-scholarships/
Deadline: February 15, 2026

McDonalds HACER National Scholarship
Eligibility:

- You're a high school senior
- You're a legal U.S. resident or a DREAMER/DACA recipient
- You're younger than 21 years old
- You carry a minimum 2.8 GPA
- You're eligible to attend a two- or four-year college or university with a full-time course of study
- You'll disclose other scholarship programs that you've applied for
- You'll enroll and attend an accredited institution in the academic year after your selection (verification needed, as scholarship funds are paid directly to the schools)
- You must turn in all required paperwork.

Award Amount: 30 overall scholarships; amount varies from $5000 - $100,000
To Apply: https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/community/hacer.html
Deadline: February 17, 2026

Act of Kindness Scholarship

- **Eligibility:**

Applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled or plan to be enrolled part-time or full-time in an accredited U.S. college or university. Vocational/technical, two-year, four-year, or graduate institutions are eligible.
- Be a high school junior or senior, undergraduate student, or graduate student
- Have a grade point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 system
- Recipients must provide an official transcript confirming their reported GPA and proof of enrollment. No transcript or proof of enrollment is required until after students are selected as winners.

Award Amount: $1000
To Apply: https://www.parent-volunteer.org/act-of-kindness-scholarship
Deadline: February 28, 2026

Engebretson Foundation Scholarship
Eligibility:
Applicants must be:

- Be a graduating senior from a United States high school.
- Plan to attend a four year college.
- Be in need of financial assistance in order to attend a four year college.
- Have achieved a score of 28 composite or higher on the ACT exam (or at least 1240 on the SAT).
- Have achieved at least a 3.75 GPA or above and/or top 5% of graduating class.
- Have applied for federal financial aid and have already received back the Student Aid Report that contains your Expected Family Contribution (EFC); see Filing for FAFSA.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Applicant does not have to be Pell eligible to qualify for the scholarship.
- Students obtaining dual enrollment credits while in high school are still eligible to apply.
- Due to the number of applications received, the Engebretson Foundation will only notify the winning recipient.

Award Amount: (1) $10,000
To Apply: https://www.engebretsonfoundation.org/
Deadline: March 1, 2026 (opens January 1)

USPAACC Scholarship
Eligibility:

- High school senior
- Citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- Beginning full-time study at an accredited post-secondary educational institution in the United States in Fall 2026
- Academic achievement of 3.3 GPA or higher
- Leadership in extracurricular activities
- Involvement in community service
- Financial need

Award Amount: 10 to 20 ($3,000 - $5000)
To Apply: https://celebrasianconference.com/scholarships
Deadline: March 2, 2026

Central Carolina Community Foundation Scholarship Opportunity
Eligibility:
o All applicants should:

- Complete ONE online application to be entered into multiple scholarship opportunities
- Review Scholarship opportunities at: https://www.yourfoundation.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships/scholarship-descriptions/
- Transcript, Personal statement, completed application, 2 recommendations, and family income information
- **There is one scholarship specifically for AC Flora seniors.**

Award Amount: 200 scholarships valued at $550,000
To Apply: https://www.yourfoundation.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships/
Deadline: March 5, 2026

Woman's Western Golf Foundation
Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply for a Women's Western Scholarship, applicants must be a woman high school senior and meet the following requirements:

- Active participant in the sport of golf (golf ability is not a criterion for selection)
- Have a 3.5 GPA or above on a 4.0 scale
- Be outstanding in character, integrity and leadership
- Require financial assistance to attend a four-year college in the USA

Award Amount: 20 ($5,000 yearly)
To Apply: https://www.wwga.org/scholarships
Deadline: March 7, 2026

Fontana Transport Inc. Scholars Program

- Eligibility:
  - First-generation high school seniors who are underrepresented, need financial assistance and are passionate about furthering their education
  - Applicants do not have to be a U.S. citizen, but they must have a minimum 3.5 weighted GPA and graduate a US high school in Spring or Summer
  - Applicants will need proof of attending a 4-year university beginning Fall 2026
  - Graduating high school, will pursue a full time undergraduate degree in the United States at any 4 year accredited university by fall 2026 and plan to study in any of the following concentrations:
    - Transportation Management
    - Math
    - Science
    - Engineering (Any field of engineering)
    - Architecture
    - Environmental Design
    - Pre-Med
    - Psychology
    - Spanish Language/Literature
  - Complete all portions of the application

Award: $5,000
Apply: https://www.fontanatransportincscholarsprogram.com/
Deadline: March 13, 2026

100 Black Men of Greater Columbia Scholarship

- Eligibility:
  - Applicants must be a high school senior transitioning to a 2 or 4 year institution of higher learning in the Fall of 2026
  - Applicants must maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA(on a 4.0 scale)
  - Complete all portions of the application

Award: (6) $2,000 (renewable for up to 4 years with a value of $500 annually)

Apply: https://www.100blackmencolumbiasc.com/scholarship
Deadline: March 15, 2026

Presidents High School Student Scholarship Awarded by The Government Finance Officers Association of South Carolina

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a resident of the State of South Carolina;
- The applicant must be a high school senior;
- The applicant must be attending a South Carolina technical college or university working towards a certificate, Associate Degree, or Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business related field; ·
- The applicant must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Award Amount: $1,250
To Apply: https://gfoasc.org/scholarships
Deadline: April 7, 2026

Solomon Jackson Jr. Foundation Scholarship

- **Eligibility:**
  - Attend public school in Richland, Fairfield, Kershaw, Marion, Dillon #4, Hampton 2, Florence 4 or Orangeburg County
  - Preference will be given to persons of color
  - Low income students
  - Plan to attend an accredited and approved two-year or four-year institution in the US

Award: Varies
Apply: https://solomonjacksonjrfoundation.submittable.com/submit
Deadline: April 15, 2026

Altruism & All Good Deeds Scholarship

- **Eligibility:**

Applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled or plan to be enrolled part-time or full-time in an accredited U.S. college or university. Vocational/technical, two-year, four-year, or graduate institutions are eligible.
- Be a high school junior or senior, undergraduate student, or graduate student
- Have a grade point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 system
- Recipients must provide an official transcript confirming their reported GPA and proof of enrollment. No transcript or proof of enrollment is required until after students are selected as winners.

Award Amount: $1000
To Apply: https://www.parent-volunteer.org/a-a-altruism-all-good-deeds-scholarship
Deadline: May 31, 2026

Big Sun Athletics Scholarship
Eligibility

- All student athletes are eligible regardless of the sport they are engaged in or the capacity in which they participate. The student must be a high school senior or be attending a post secondary institute.
- Please remember to include your name and the name of the school that you are attending.
- Complete the essay

Award: $500
Apply: https://bigsunathletics.com/
Deadline: June 19. 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