DON'T DRIVE DROWSY FOUNDATION

Scholarship Program

Overview

The mission of the Don't Drive Drowsy Foundation is to educate teens on the dangers of driving sleep impaired and the benefits of a good night's sleep, every night. According to the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) there are 1.2 million drowsy driving crashes each year. A majority of these crashes are committed by teen drivers. Additionally, between 5,000-8,000 people are killed each year due to drowsy driving. 100% of these crashes and deaths are entirely preventable.

In 2026, the Don't Drive Drowsy Foundation is offering a $2,000 College Scholarship. The scholarship recipient will be selected by the Don't Drive Drowsy Foundation Scholarship Committee.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must be a graduating high school senior from the Class of 2026
- Finalist(s) must be available to be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee
- Scholarship recipient can use the DDDF Scholarship at the college/trade school of his/her choice within 2 years of being named a recipient. The essay will be the primary factor in determining the scholarship recipient

WHEN TO APPLY

- Scholarship packet (1 envelope) must be postmarked by March 1, 2026.
- Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Mail all (5) submission documents no later than March 1, 2026 to:
Don't Drive Drowsy Scholarship
165 Boxwood Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Submission Requirements

- Cover letter including your contact information, why this scholarship interests you, and what your future plans include.
- 400-word minimum essay (Times New Roman, font size 12) on one of the following topics:
  1. Our society puts little value on sleep. Why do you think drowsy driving is such a major problem for teens? What can be done to change this?
  2. Describe a drowsy driving crash experienced by you, a friend, or family member. What led up to this crash and how could it have been prevented?
  3. If schools changed their start time to 8:30 or later, would this be beneficial or harmful to you? Why?

  **Any use of plagiarism will be automatic grounds for elimination.*
- Copy of acceptance letter from college/trade school
  You may apply if you have not received this, but must be presented before scholarship offer.
- One letter of recommendation
- A list of your high school activities

Winner Requirements

Acceptance & Funding Guidelines:

- Funds will be distributed to the college of the recipient's choice when proof of enrollment is received.
- The winning applicant has 48 hours to accept the scholarship before it is given to the runner-up.

After Acceptance, Scholarship Winner Must...

- Send a 250-word biography and headshot.
- A thank you letter emailed to the Don't Drive Drowsy Foundation
- *Send 60-second social media reels detailing why you applied for the scholarship, and if you have ever been affected by drowsy driving.

*Note: Reel can be accommodated in written form upon permission.

Timeline

March 1, 2026: Essays are due.
March 15, 2026: Scholarship Committee members will receive and review essays.
March 31, 2026: The scholarship recipient will be formally announced.