



McChord *Thrift Shop*

2026 Scholarship Awards

The McChord Thrift Shop, located at Joint Base Lewis McChord, is a 501(c)4 Non-Profit that supports the JBLM military family community through welfare grants, scholarships, employment for active-duty spouses, and in-kind giving to reduce waste. The scholarship program looks to award funds for higher education to military dependents assigned to JBLM. These dependents are outstanding students, community leaders, and play a pivotal role in supporting their servicemember during or after service.

The McChord Thrift Shop is a thrift and consignment store run by a small paid staff and a large, committed group of volunteers. Our volunteers are a diverse mix of retirees and their spouses, active duty spouses, and other dependents; active duty members and groups also work with us on special projects throughout the year. Our customers, consigners, and donors are just as diverse, utilizing the many opportunities to support local military families through the MTS. In short, our giving programs are supported and powered by our community, for our community!

Eligibility

1. These awards will be offered to legal dependents* of:
 - a. Active Duty Air Force, Army, Marine Corp, Navy, or Coast Guard personnel stationed in the local area** or on assignment to any unaccompanied remote tour where the family resides in the local area**
 - b. Retired Air Force, Army, Marine Corp, Navy, or Coast Guard personnel residing in the local area**
 - c. Deceased Air Force, Army, Marine Corp, Navy, or Coast Guard personnel whose family resides in the local area**
 - d. Air Force, Army, Marine Corp, Navy, or Coast Guard Reservists and National Guard assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord
2. The applicant must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale to be eligible.
3. The applicant must be planning to attend an accredited two or four-year university, college, or trade school on a full-time basis for the 2026-2027+ school year. Full time is defined as taking a minimum of 12 hours per term, or as otherwise dictated by the attended institution.
4. The applicant may reapply for our scholarships as many times as they like. **However, an individual will not be awarded scholarship money from this organization more than once.**

5. Applicants who have previously submitted application packages must re-submit all required information.

Awards

The following is a list of awards that may be given to an applicant, based on the general eligibility criteria as well as individual award criteria.

1. Outstanding Student Merit Award
 - a. Awarded to any applicant, based on academic excellence and well-roundedness. Emphasis is placed on GPA, extracurricular involvement, letter(s) of recommendation, and essay submission.
2. Community Leader Award
 - a. Awarded to any applicant, based on community involvement and demonstrated leadership. Emphasis on volunteerism, employment with high-need, non-profit, or service-based organizations, letter(s) of recommendation, and essay submission.
 - b. This award is directly funded by customer donations made through the year at the MTS!
3. Military Spouse Resiliency Award
 - a. Awarded to a spouse applicant, based on demonstrated resiliency through hardship and continued self-improvement. Emphasis on essay submission, letter(s) of recommendation, and community involvement.
4. Military Child Perseverance Award
 - a. Awarded to a non-spouse applicant (child/stepchild of a servicemember), based on demonstrated perseverance through the challenges of life and desire to be and do better as a result. Emphasis on essay submission, letter(s) of recommendation, and community involvement.

Multiple awards may be given for any category, or no award may be given if no qualified applicants apply. The total amount of each award, or the award pot in general, may vary year to year, and no award in a previous year should be indicative of a future award. Applicants may apply to be considered in any and all categories for which they are eligible, but will only be given the highest award for which they qualify.

Limitations & Exceptions

No award will be given to a student accepting a service academy appointment, a 4-year ROTC scholarship, or a full scholarship (room, board, & tuition).

Please note, if you are a GI Bill recipient, MTS scholarship money will go directly to the school for tuition only. No exceptions.

Awards will be paid directly to the school in which the winner enrolls, upon receipt of enrollment verification. Enrollment verification will be the official document provided by

the school with recipient's enrollment information. Screen shots, photographs, or emails are NOT official enrollment documents and will NOT be accepted as such.

The scholarship will be used for tuition & fees, and only for the student named in the award. Awards must be used in the 2026-2027+ academic year. If the student does not complete at least one official term of school, for any reason other than hardship (to be determined by the MTS Board), he/she will ensure the return of the full amount of the MTS award within 60 days of dis-enrolling.

Each scholarship award recipient and his or her sponsor will be required to sign a contract accepting the rules and regulations of the MTS Scholarship Awards prior to the disbursement of funds.

Submission & Deadlines

COMPLETED TYPED APPLICATIONS, AS WELL AS ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION, MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 17th, 2026 TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ANY AWARD.

Applications will be received at the address listed below, email listed below, or in person. Please contact the Scholarship Committee via e-mail at MTSBoard@mcchordthriftshop.org for further information. All applications and required information may be sent via mail to:

MTS Scholarship Chairperson
PO Box 4025
McChord Field, WA 98438

Or sent digitally to MTSBoard@mcchordthriftshop.org. Digital submissions must be in PDF format. Submissions in other formats will not be considered complete.

**A dependent for scholarship purposes is defined as a currently unmarried natural child, an adopted child, or a stepchild, who has not passed his/her 26th birthday. Applicants must be authorized dependent privileges and possess a valid dependent ID card.*

***Local area is defined as up to and including the area within a 50-mile radius of the main gate of McChord Field located at Fairway Road, McChord AFB, Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA 98438.*

**The 2026-2027 school year is defined as the school year beginning no earlier than 8/1/2026 and ending no later than 7/31/2027, or any term of school within such dates.*

Scholarship Checklist

Use this checklist as a guide as you gather and complete the items to apply. Remember, only one full application is needed no matter how many awards you apply for, but you will need to complete a separate Essay for each award. If you are applying for multiple awards, put all essays together in the "Essay" section of the application packet. **Please submit your application in the order specified below.**

General Information Sheet

Form provided below; complete and return.

Military Dependent Self Verification & Communication Agreement

Form provided below; complete and return.

Recent Transcript

Include your most recent transcript, official or unofficial. GPA **must** be listed.

Schools & Extracurricular Summary

Form provided below; complete and return.

Paid Work & Volunteerism Summary

Form provided below; complete and return.

Essay(s)

Essay questions and submission information provided. Must submit with package.

Letters of Recommendation*

*if applicable. Not required. Submission instructions included.

General Information

Applicant Full Legal Name													
Birthdate			Phone Number										
Email Address													
Mailing Address													
Military Sponsor Name													
Sponsor Rank			Sponsor Phone Number										
Sponsor Email Address													
Sponsor Relationship to Applicant													
Sponsor Status		<input type="checkbox"/>	Active Duty		<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve/Guard		<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired		<input type="checkbox"/>	Deceased	
Branch of Service							Years of Service						
School for 2025-26 Year													
Area of Study					School City & State								

Eligibility

Type of Applicant		<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse Dependent			<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Spouse Dependent			
Most Current GPA*				<input type="checkbox"/>	High School GPA			<input type="checkbox"/>	College GPA	

*Must match transcript submission, or attach documentation from academic advisor if different

Application Information

For which awards do you wish to apply?

Outstanding Student Merit Award

Community Leadership Award

Military Spouse Resiliency Award

Military Child Perseverance Award

Applicant Agreement

By signing the below, I verify that all the information contained within this application is true, current, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the McChord Thrift Shop Scholarship Committee to use this information to grade and determine my eligibility for any award for which I have specified above. I understand I may not be given any award at all, and that I will not receive any part of my application back.

Applicant Sign		Date
Parent Sign (if applicant under 18)		

Military Dependent Self Verification

MTS Scholarship Winners must have photo ID verifying current military dependent status. Applicants will self verify for the application, and if selected for an award, will be required to present such ID to the MTS Scholarship Chair for final verification.

Document Information	<input type="checkbox"/> DOD ID	<input type="checkbox"/> DEERS Enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
ID Holder Name			
Date of Issue		Expiration Date	
DOD ID# or Document ID #			

Applicant Verification

By signing the below, I verify that I possess current military dependent status. If chosen for an award, I understand I must present documentation verifying such (along with photo ID, if documentation does not contain) to the MTS Scholarship Chair prior to my award being disbursed. Should proper documentation not be presented, as determined by the MTS Scholarship Chair & Board, my award may be revoked.

Applicant Sign	Date
Parent Sign (if applicant under 18)	

Communication Agreement

I understand that all communication regarding my scholarship application, any potential award, and any next steps to obtaining an award will be communicated through email. The email listed on my General Information page will be the email at which I am contacted. I will add mcchordthriftshop@gmail.com and mtsboard@mcchordthriftshop.org to my contact lists to better I recieve their communications. I understand it is my responsibility to watch for and respond to these emails in order to receive any potential award.

Applicant Sign	Date
Parent Sign (if applicant under 18)	

School & Extracurricular Summary

If additional room is needed for any section, additional page may be attached

Schools Attended (High School and Collegiate)

School Name			Dates Attended		
Location (City, State)					
Graduate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Course of Study
Honors or Awards Received (if any)					
School Name			Dates Attended		
Location (City, State)					
Graduate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Course of Study
Honors or Awards Received (if any)					

Extracurricular (School) Activities

Activity		Dates Participated	
Advisor/Coach		Email or Phone	
Honors or Awards Received (if any)			
Activity		Dates Participated	
Advisor/Coach		Email or Phone	
Honors or Awards Received (if any)			
Activity		Dates Participated	
Advisor/Coach		Email or Phone	
Honors or Awards Received (if any)			
Activity		Dates Participated	
Advisor/Coach		Email or Phone	
Honors or Awards Received (if any)			

Paid Work & Volunteerism Summary

If additional room is needed for any section, additional page may be attached

Paid Work Experience

Employer	Job Title
Supervisor	Email or Phone
Dates Employed	Location
Awards or Honors	
Was this employer	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service <input type="checkbox"/> High Needs Area

Employer	Job Title
Supervisor	Email or Phone
Dates Employed	Location
Awards or Honors	
Was this employer	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service <input type="checkbox"/> High Needs Area

Employer	Job Title
Supervisor	Email or Phone
Dates Employed	Location
Awards or Honors	
Was this employer	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service <input type="checkbox"/> High Needs Area

Volunteer Experience

Organization	Position Title
Supervisor	Email or Phone
Dates Participated	Location
Awards or Honors	

Organization	Position Title
Supervisor	Email or Phone
Dates Participated	Location
Awards or Honors	

Organization	Position Title
Supervisor	Email or Phone
Dates Participated	Location
Awards or Honors	

Essay Questions

For each award you wish to apply, answer the applicable essay prompt below. Essays should be typed in 12pt, single spaced, Times New Roman font, with a length of 300 – 500 words, and using the award name as a title. If submitting digitally, the essay file must be in PDF format. If answering multiple prompts, separate each prompt into individual files.

Outstanding Student Merit Award

- Academic excellence is an amazing achievement, especially when balanced with mental & emotional well-being. However, this is not always easy. *How have you worked to balance your academic, mental, and emotional well-being in the past year OR how do you plan to do so in the next year?*

Community Leadership Award

- Serving your community not only benefits those you serve, but should also impact the ones serving! *How has your work within the community changed or expanded your worldview?*

Military Spouse Resiliency Award

- Resiliency is the hallmark of many military spouses, but comes in many shapes and forms. Not every journey looks the same, but they are all worth hearing and valuing! *How have you exemplified resilience in your life? How does that impact your choice to further your education?*

Military Child Perseverance Award

- Children of military servicemembers face unique challenges that can easily cause trouble with reaching goals. Learning perseverance through the ups and downs of life can also allow you to better understand and help those around you. *In what ways have you persevered in life and how do you hope to use those skills in the future?*

Letters of Recommendation

To apply for any award, 1 letter of recommendation is required. You may submit up to 2 letters of recommendation should you wish, although only one score will be applied. This may be helpful in the case that you wish to apply for more than one award, with different emphasis.

Letters should be from a non-relative who has known you or your work/involvement for more than 1 year, and has overseen/supervised you in the applicable area.

For Letter Writers:

Thank you for your willingness to recommend an applicant for our scholarships! Your insight will allow us to better see the everyday values this applicant upholds that may not be as easily seen in an application. You can see the individual awards below, and your applicant can inform you as to which they will be applying:

Outstanding Student Merit Award

- *Awarded to any applicant, based on academic excellence and well-roundedness.*

Community Leader Award

- *Awarded to any applicant, based on community involvement and demonstrated leadership.*

Military Spouse Resiliency Award

- *Awarded to a spouse applicant, based on demonstrated resiliency through hardship and continued self-improvement.*

Military Child Perseverance Award

- *Awarded to a non-spouse applicant (child/stepchild of a servicemember), based on demonstrated perseverance through the challenges of life and desire to be and do better as a result.*

Letters should be one page or less, typed, and signed. Please include your name, title or role, and contact information for verification purposes. Letters may be given directly to the applicant to submit with their package or can be sent digitally to mntsboard@mcchordthriftshop.org. Applications are due on April 17th, 2026.

*We truly appreciate your time and support of your applicant!
The McChord Thrift Shop Scholarship Committee*