Scholarship Update: Week of August 31, 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:

Palmetto Pride Youth Ambassador Program
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Must be between the ages of **14 – 18.**
  - Regularly participate in litter clean-ups and are active in school environmental programs
  - 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.
  - A letter of recommendation from a teacher, leader, or mentor
  - 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 14, 2026

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: www.palmettopride.org/get-involved/program/youth-ambassadors/
Deadline: September 14, 2026

The Gates Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - A high school senior
  - Pell-eligible
  - A US citizen 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:
Deadline: September 15, 2026

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.
  - Students will submit written works addressing the topic question, *"How should we improve the state of South Carolina?"*
  - Residents of South Carolina
  - 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 28. 2026

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
- Come 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: October 1, 2026

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, 2026

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 2026-2027 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
- Able to verify a minimum overall B/3.0 GPA in high school coursework

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, 2026

2026 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 2027 – 2028 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 2027 – 2028 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.regions.com/about-regions/inclusion-belonging-impact/supporting-communities/essay-contest-scholarship
Deadline: September 30, 2026 and December 31, 2026

Chick-Fil-A Community Scholars Program

- **Eligibility:**
  - Be a resident in the United States, Puerto Rico, or Canada
  - Be a postsecondary undergraduate or graduate student or planning to enroll in undergraduate or graduate study in an accredited two-or-four year college, university or vocational-technical school for the 2027-2028 academic year.
  - Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent). Academic awards and recognition will be considered. Applicants are required awards and recognition will be considered. Applicants are required to upload a transcript that displays their name, school name, classes taken and GPA.
  - Demonstrate financial need.
  - Not be employed at a Chick-fila-A restaurant or Chick-fil-A, Inc. at the time of application or the dependent or spouse of a Chick-fil-A, Inc. Employee or Operator.

Award Amount: (12) $25,000 scholarships
To Apply: https://apply.scholarsapply.org/cfacommunityscholars/
Deadline: October 28, 2026 (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 December 2026.

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, in an accredited U.S. college or university.
  - 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, 2026

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 2027.
    - **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 2027
    - **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.Test sores will be reviewed.
- **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 $45,000. 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 (60 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 11, 2026

National Honor Society Scholarship

Eligibility:

To be eligible, a student must be:

- A high school senior and/or expecting to receive a high school diploma during the current academic year.
- An active member in good standing of a National Honor Society chapter, meeting all membership requirements and obligations of the local chapter.
- An NHS student account holder, verified by the NHS chapter adviser.
- Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. college or university, military institute, or trade school.

Award Amount: Awards for semi-finalists and finalists

To Apply: https://www.nationalhonorsociety.org/the-nhs-scholarship/

Deadline: November 20, 2026 (opens September 3)

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.
        - Non US Citizens selected as finalists must provide a copy of their passport or green card.
        - 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, 2027 until September 1, 2027. 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 2025 Federal Income Tax Purposes must not have exceeded $125,000. "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: (1500 scholarships) up to $60,000 for up to 8 consecutive semesters; Free workshops, Free Schwab Brokerage Accounts, and Study Abroad
To Apply: https://haganscholarships.org/
Deadline: December 1, 2026 (application opens September 1, 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 11, 2027

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 14, 2027

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 2026) from $1000 to $10000 (non-renewable)
To Apply: https://www.gwcf.org/scholarship
Deadline: January 15, 2027

To be eligible, a student must be:

- A high school senior and/or expecting to receive a high school diploma during the current academic year.
- An active member in good standing of a National Honor Society chapter, meeting all membership requirements and obligations of the local chapter.
- An NHS student account holder, verified by the NHS chapter adviser.
- Planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. college or university, military institute, or trade school.