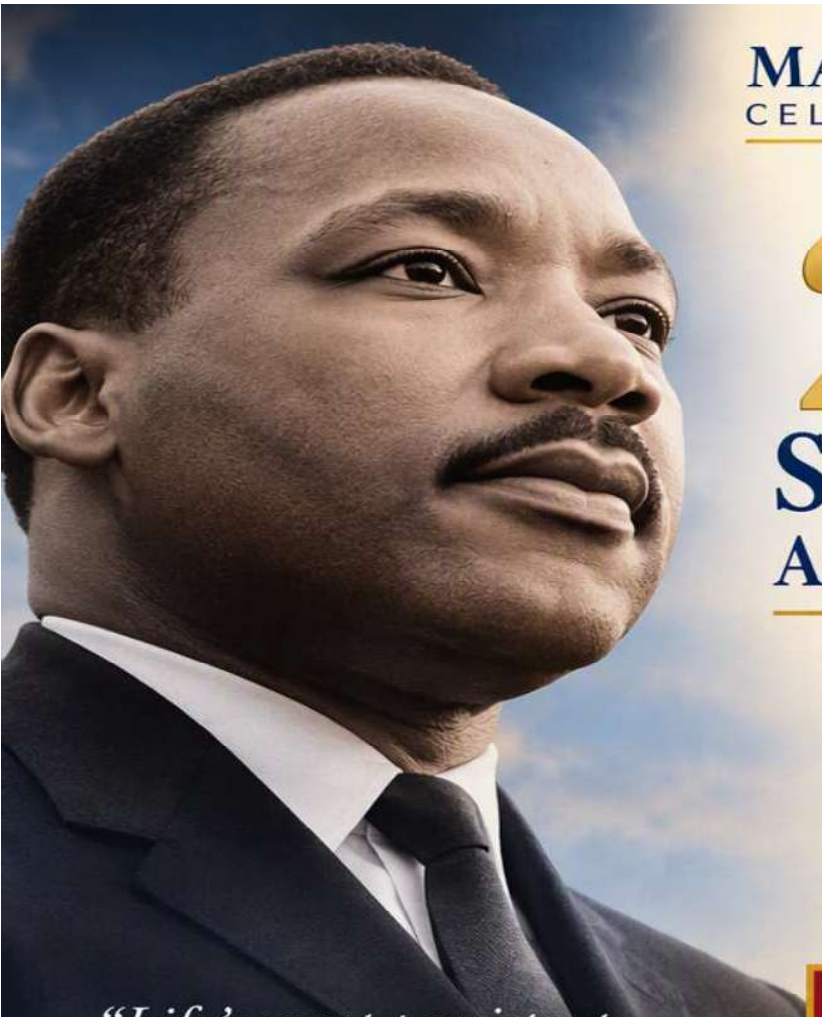

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
CELEBRATION FOR FLORIDA, INC.

IS A 501(C)3 NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

2027 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOLARSHIP

TRAYVON MARTIN SCHOLARSHIP

Empowering Today's Students to Build a Brighter Tomorrow

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Applications must be received or postmarked by November 13, 2026.

Incomplete applications will not be processed.

COMPLETED APPLICATION AND INFORMATION MUST BE MAILED TO:

MLK SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
POST OFFICE BOX 11453
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32120

EDUCATE ✦ EMPOWER ✦ SERVE ✦ INSPIRE

Keeping the Dream Alive Through Education, Service, and Opportunity

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

The **Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration for Florida, Inc. Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce the availability of the following scholarships:

1. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship

(Minimum Cumulative High School GPA: 3.0)

One or more scholarships in the amount of **$2,000** will be awarded to honor the life and legacy of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist recipients with educational expenses while attending an accredited postsecondary institution.

2. Trayvon Martin Scholarship

(Cumulative High School GPA: 2.5 - 2.9)

One or more scholarships in the amount of **$2,000** will be awarded. The loss of Trayvon Martin's life served as a reminder of the importance of creating opportunities and supporting future generations. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist recipients with expenses associated with attending a college, university, career, or technical school.

The Scholarship Committee will review all application materials and evaluate applicants based on established selection criteria. Scholarship recipients will be notified by phone and mail no later than **December 11, 2026**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The awarding of scholarships is at the sole discretion of the Scholarship Committee. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements to be considered. Individuals may receive only one scholarship award, and all awards are non-transferable.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a graduating high school senior in Volusia County, Florida.
2. **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Applicants:** Must have a cumulative high school GPA of **3.0 or higher**.

3. **Trayvon Martin Scholarship Applicants:** Must have a cumulative high school GPA between **2.5 and 2.9**.
4. Submit an **official high school transcript** in a sealed envelope.
5. Complete a **700-1,000-word essay**, typed in 12-point font, based on **ONE** of the following topics:

Essay Topic #1

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"*

Describe a time when you made a positive difference in the life of another person or your community. What did you learn from the experience?

Essay Topic #2

Dr. King urged us to keep moving forward, whether we fly, run, walk, or crawl.

Describe an obstacle you have faced, how you continued moving forward, and who helped you along the way.

Essay Topic #3

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to service, equality, and justice.

Describe how your actions, leadership, and future goals reflect Dr. King's values. Discuss how receiving this scholarship will help you make a meaningful impact in your community and beyond.

6. Submit **three (3) separate letters of recommendation from non-family members**, including:

A. Community Recommendation

Verification of your involvement in community service, volunteer work, or community activities outside of school-sponsored projects.

B. Extracurricular Recommendation

Description of your participation, leadership, and involvement in school-based extracurricular activities.

C. Teacher Recommendation

A recommendation from a current or former teacher explaining why you are a deserving candidate for this scholarship.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENTS

All recommendation letters must be submitted on official letterhead.

Each letter must clearly identify the recommendation type in the **top right corner** using one of the following labels:

- Community Recommendation
- Extracurriculars Recommendation
- Teacher Recommendation

If the Scholarship Committee cannot determine the recommendation type, the letter may not be considered during the application review process.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all recommendation letters meet these requirements.

7. Submit a completed and signed **Photo Release Authorization Form**.
8. Provide verification of acceptance and enrollment from an accredited college, university, career school, or technical school for the **Fall 2027 semester**. Documents should be submitted as soon as they become available.
9. Submit a copy of your **Voter Registration Card**.

Recipients of the Scholarship must also:

10. Attend the MLK Banquet – January 10, 2027- 4:00 pm -Location TBD
11. Attend Community Worship Service- 7 Words of The King- January 17, 2027
12. Attend MLK Breakfast, Celebratory March and Festival- January 18, 2027
13. Write Thank You Letters to their presenting Sponsors
14. Participate in *community service, volunteering a minimum of 20 hours
    - Hours to be completed between February 2027- July 13, 2027
15. Participate in Day of Service Project TBD

Events, service projects, and community service requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee. Scholarship recipients are required to complete community service hours with a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Community service hours performed through a school or an organization in which the recipient is currently a member, volunteer, employee, or participant will not qualify toward this requirement.

Photo Release Authorization Form

As a scholarship recipient, The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration for Florida Inc. Scholarship Committee will be taking photos of students, student activities, etc. The scholarship committee reserves the right to use these photos for news releases, the website, sponsorships, program-related video and slide presentations, marketing purposes, etc.

We feel that these are legitimate opportunities for students to be in the "limelight" and promote the opportunities of scholarships provided within the community.

☐ Yes, I grant permission to use my child's photo for the purposes listed above.
☐ No, do not use my student's photo.

Student's Name (print): _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date_____

Scholarship Application

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED/POSTMAKED BY NOVEMBER 13, 2026

**Incomplete Applications will not be processed*

Which Scholarship are you applying for: ☐ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ☐ Treyvon Martin

Last Name: _____ **First Name**: _____ **Middle Initial:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

U.S. Citizen: ☐ Yes ☐ No Volusia County Resident: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Current High School: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Expected high school graduation date: _____

Have you applied to a College/University: ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, have you been accepted: ☐ Yes No ☐

College/University you wish to attend: _____ Career Goal: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent Telephone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Application Agreement

It is understood that false statements on this application shall be sufficient cause for application rejection. I,_____certify that all information on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that if I am awarded this scholarship, I must submit the following information, or the scholarship will be forfeited:

- **Verification of Community Service hours were completed between February 1, 2027, and July 13, 2027**
- **2027 acceptance letter from my college, university or technical school**
- **Fall 2027class schedule**

I,_____authorize the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration for Florida Inc. Scholarship Committee to share my information with scholarship sponsors.

Student Signature:_____ Parent/Guardian:_____