Scholarship Update: Week of October 4, 2026

Please remember to visit the AC Flora School Counseling Website for a list of ALL scholarships that are available.

https://flora.richlandone.org/school-counseling/scholarships

Here are a few we thought you might be interested in:

NSHSS Your First Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Educator Recommendation letter
  - Personal Statement
    - In no more than 500 words, share your biggest strength and how you will use that strength to propel you into your future aspirations.
  - Pictures/videos/media showing your leadership in action (optional)
  - Color headshot suitable for website posting
  - Academic Resume
  - Current transcript (can be official or unofficial)

Award Amount: (10) $500
To Apply: https://www.nshss.org/scholarships/s/nshss-your-first-scholarship-2026/
Deadline: October 15, 2026

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Thomas Wolfe Scholarship

- **Eligibility:**
  - The Thomas Wolfe Scholarship award will be based largely on written work submitted by candidates. **Artistic merit is the chief criterion of selection.** Students who write poetry, fiction, plays, creative nonfiction (personal essays, memoir, travel and nature essays, literary journalism, and lyric essays) are eligible. Multiple genre submissions are also encouraged. Submissions are limited to one application per student.
  - Students may choose to **major** in any discipline, but the Wolfe Scholar must agree to **minor** in Creative Writing.
  - Apply to UNC Chapel Hill by October 15, 2026.
  - Apply for The Thomas Wolfe Scholarship by November 15, 2026.
  - Complete all portions of the application and portfolio requirements

Award Amount: full tuition, room and board, textbooks, a new laptop, annual summer stipend
To Apply: https://englishcomplit.unc.edu/creative-writing/scholarships-fellowships-and-awards/the-thomas-wolfe-scholarship/
Deadline: October 15, 2026 (apply to UNC); November 15, 2026(apply for scholarship)

The Robertson Scholars Leadership Program

- **Eligibility:**
  - Students must apply for undergraduate admission to Duke and/or UNC-Chapel Hill the same year they apply to the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program.

- Students must apply to the school(s) of their choice by the respective Early or Regular deadlines.
- Admission to Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill are separate processes. All forms and correspondence dealing with admission to these institutions should go directly to their respective Offices of Undergraduate Admissions.
- International students are eligible to apply for the Robertson as long as they are able to obtain a Visa to study in the United States.
- Students on a gap year who have already been admitted to Duke University or UNC-Chapel Hill may not apply for the Robertson until they matriculate to their respective institution.
- Transfer students are not eligible to apply.
- The Robertson is strictly available for undergraduate students. Students seeking graduate degrees may not apply

Award Amount: full tuition, room and board, and summer stipend
To Apply: https://robertsonscholars.org/high-school-students-2/
Deadline: Must apply for admission to DUKE or UNC- Chapel Hill; your Robertson application must be completed by the application deadline you choose (Early Decision (October 15) or Regular Decision (November 15))

NSHSS Foundation STEM Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Educator Recommendation letter
  - Prompt response of 500-800 words to the following question:
    - Why did you choose STEM? Share your journey and the ways you've demonstrated your passion for the field throughout high school. Highlight your achievements, projects, or experiences that showcase your dedication and success in STEM.
  - Pictures/videos/media showing your leadership in action (optional)
  - Color headshot suitable for website posting
  - Academic Resume
  - Current transcript (can be official or unofficial)

Award Amount: (2) $1000
To Apply: https://www.nshss.org/scholarships/s/nshss-foundation-stem-scholarship-2026/
Deadline: October 20, 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)

American College Foundation 17th Annual Visionary Scholarship
Eligibility:

- Register at the American College Foundation
- Create your free account
- Complete the application
  - Submit your most recent transcript
  - Complete a 500 word essay explaining why college is important to you.

Award Amount: (5) $1000 - $2500
To Apply: https://americancollegefoundation.org/college-planning-visionary-scholarship-details/

Deadline: October 31, 2026

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.

Sallie Mae Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Legal resident of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia and any US Territory
  - age 16 or older at the time of entry, and who meet one (1) of the four (4) following eligibility requirements at the time of entry:

1. A parent who currently has a child enrolled in an accredited college or university located within the United States;
2. A student who is currently enrolled in an accredited college or university located within the United States;
3. A parent who currently has a child enrolled as a high school senior located within the United States;
4. A student who is currently enrolled as a high school junior or senior who intends to enroll in an accredited college or university located with the United States, within a year of graduating high school.
5. View Full Rules on the website

Award Amount: $2000
To Apply: https://www.salliemae.com/scholarships/2k-scholarship/?dtd_cell=SMPLSODCZPPSOTOTOTHOTHRN010000&utm_source=studentscholarships&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=acq1p_ss_s_u_u_sch_u_u&utm_content=app
Deadline: October 31, 2026, November 30, 2026, December 31, 2026

Hispanic Heritage Foundation Haz La U Scholarship
Eligibility:

- All applicants:
  - Must have a minimum unweighted 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale or a 7.5 on a 10.0 scale
  - Be currently enrolled in high school and graduating in the spring of 2027
  - Must enroll at an accredited higher education institution in 2027-2028
  - If selected, attendance to virtual regional awards ceremony is mandatory

Award Amount: (10) $2000; (10) $3000; (10) $4000 scholarships
To Apply: https://hispanicheritage.org/youth-awards/#eligibility
Deadline: November 1, 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

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 2027-28 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) November 15, 2026, or 05:59 a.m. GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)

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

Ron Brown Scholarship Program
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
    - Must be Black/African American.
    - Must excel academically.
    - Must exhibit exceptional leadership potential.
    - Must participate in community service activities.
    - Demonstrate financial need.
    - Be a US citizen or hold a permanent resident visa card.
    - Be a current high school senior at the time of your application. NOTE: Current college students are not eligible to apply.
    - Our Leaders Network connects Scholars, Captains, and Alumni with career development opportunities, mentorship, and a robust professional network.

Award Amount: (20) $40,000 ($10,000 yearly for 4 years)
To Apply: https://ronbrown.org/ron-brown-scholarship/
Deadline: December 1, 2026

South Carolina Teaching Fellows
Eligibility:
Applicants must be:
Eligibility:

- a United States citizen or will be an eligible non-citizen under State Residency statutes at the time of high school graduation (Please note - students categorized as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are not eligible for Teaching Fellows.)

- a legal resident of South Carolina (Please note - The Teaching Fellows Institution will verify residency after a student has been offered an award.)
- Applications are open between October 1 and December 1 to all students in their senior year of high school.
- The application requires:
    - two reference surveys
    - documentation of school/community involvement
    - work and/or leadership experiences
    - a high school transcript with class rank
    - ACT and/or SAT scores
- A screening committee reviews and scores all completed applications. Up to 500 top applicants are selected to participate in the Teaching Fellows regional interviews, where they will complete a panel interview with three educators, give a brief presentation on a designated topic, and respond to a written essay prompt.
- Meet all eligibility requirements as stated on the application

Award Amount: $6,000 annually for four years
To Apply: https://www.cerra.org/o/cerra/page/teaching-fellows
Deadline: December 1, 2026

Burger King Scholarship
Eligibility:

- Be living in the United States, Canada or Puerto Rico
- Be a first time applicant graduating high school seniors (U.S. and Puerto Rico), graduating from grade 12 (Canada) or graduating from home school education in the U.S., Puerto Rico or Canada
- Have a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent
- Plan to enroll full-time, without interruption, for the entire 2027-2028 academic year at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school or CEGEP or equivalent in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam or Canada

Award Amount: awards ranging from $1000 - $60,000 (only the first 30,000 applications are accepted)
To Apply: https://www.burgerkingfoundation.org/programs/burger-king-sm-scholars
Deadline: December 15, 2026 (Opens OCTOBER 15)

Common App Scholarship
Eligibility:
Applicants must be:
Eligibility:

- Be in grade 11 or 12
- Be attending college or university no later than October 1, 2027
- Have achieved a GPA of 2.5 o greater during the last academic year
- Answer one of the essay prompts

Award Amount: (3) $2000
To Apply: https://studentscholarships.org/managed/common-app-scholarship
Deadline: December 15, 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: December 31, 2026

NSHSS & DECA Scholarship 2027

Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - Resume
  - Transcript
  - Educator Recommendation letter
  - DECA chapter advisor's name and email address
  - Personal Statement of 500 words answering the prompt question: Describe your career plans and how your membership in DECA is preparing you to succeed.
  - Color headshot suitable for website posting
  - Academic Resume

Award Amount: (3) $1000

To Apply: https://www.nshss.org/scholarships/s/nshss-plus-deca-scholarship-2027/

Deadline: January 7, 2027

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

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INC. SCHOLARSHIPS
(4 different scholarships available for hgh school students)
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.
- Complete all portions of the application

Award Amount: range from $500 - $2,000
To Apply: https://gardenclubofsc.org/Scholarships ; the AC Flora School Counseling Office, Class of 2027 Schoology page
Deadline: February 1, 2027

Foundations of the Carolinas Scholarship Database
Eligibility:

- All applicants should:
  - The Foundation manages a number of scholarship programs with varied eligibility requirements defined by the donor when the fund is established.

    - You can apply to all scholarships for which you meet eligibility requirements using one application.

Award Amount: varies by scholarship
To Apply: https://jackierobinson.org/scholarship/
Deadline: March 5, 2027 **(OPENS DECEMBER 1, 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.
- Details: https://www.sctechsystem.edu/sc-wins/
- Visit your local technical college for more information