



Free Money

A Scouting America Guide to Effectively Complete Scholarship Applications

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Background About NESAs

nesa.org



Background About NESAs Scholarships

- Annual process, available from senior year of high school to junior year of college
- Open for submission December 1-January 31
- Must be a NESAs member to apply
- In 2025, NESAs received 4,000+ applications and awarded 61 scholarships ranging from \$6,000 to \$50,000, totaling \$576,000
- In 2026 62 scholarships will be available, totaling \$581,000
- Approximately 3,498 scholarships worth \$13,674,500 have been awarded since 1984

Tips and Best Practices

- Follow Directions
- Don't Procrastinate
- Write Great Essays and Proofread

Writing a Scholarship Essay

- Research the organization awarding the scholarship
- Answer the essay prompt being asked
- Structure your essay using STAR
 - S: Situation
 - T: Tasks
 - A: Actions
 - R: Results

Past Essay Examples

- Essay for character
- Essay for community service

Practice/Homework

- Pick one point of the Scout Law. Describe how this point has guided your life and provide a recent/standout example of when you exemplified that point of the Scout Law.
- Remember STAR
 - S: Situation
 - T: Tasks
 - A: Actions
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Potential Alternative Scholarship Opportunities

- Alpha Phi Omega, Leaders of Service Scholarship
- Inquire about institution-specific scholarships
- Local community foundations and civic groups
- American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year
- Epsilon Tau Pi Foundation “Soaring Eagle” Scholarship (only for Eagle Scouts and we have featured them in Eagles Call in the past)
- The National Jewish Committee on Scouting offers a Scholarship only for Eagle Scouts

scouting.org/awards/scholarships/

Questions?

