



NHS Scholarship Resource Guide

The Basics

About the NHS Scholarship

- \$30 million awarded since 1946
- \$2 million will be awarded this year:
 - 575 National Semifinalists receive \$3,200
 - 25 National Finalists receive \$5,625 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., where they will be celebrated
 - 1 National Winner chosen from the National Finalists to receive a total scholarship award of \$25,000

Timeline

- **Applications Open:** September 3, 2026
- **Applications Close:** November 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET
- **Winners Announced:** Mid-January 2027
- **Finalists' Trip to Washington D.C.:** Late-February 2027

Eligibility Requirements

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
- Enrolled in a school with an active NHS chapter

There is no limit to the number of applicants from a school, but there is a maximum of one winner per school.

Award Distribution

- One-time, non-renewable award
- Payable to the college or university, not the individual
- Used for qualified educational expenses
- Students inform their college as outside awards may impact financial aid packages
- Checks mailed to colleges in July/August
- Must be used within two years of receiving the scholarship

Ideal Candidate

- Demonstrates a service mindset by seeking out volunteer opportunities to fulfill needs and help others.
- Commits to learning, growing, and making the most of educational opportunities.
- Takes ownership and responsibility as a leader, in title or in action, in school and community.
- Displays perseverance, honesty, integrity, and ethical and compassionate decision-making.



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Application Process

3 Phases to Apply

Create an Account.

Get Verified by NHS adviser.

Complete and submit the online application.

Completing the Application

Phase 1: Student Creates an Account

Visit nationalhonorsociety.org/students/student-accounts/.

Create a Student Account and link to a school using the city and state search or School ID number. The NHS adviser can find the 8-digit school ID by logging into the NHS website and looking under "My Account."

All NHS students can create accounts as soon as they are inducted.

Students should choose an e-mail address that can receive e-mails from external senders.

Phase 2: Student Gets Verified

The NHS adviser receives an e-mail with the names of all students who created accounts during a 24-hour period each evening. This e-mail goes out once per day only. The e-mail includes instructions for how to verify students.

If the NHS adviser is aware of students waiting to be verified, they can log in at any time to view their online roster following the steps included here: nationalhonorsociety.org/advisers/student-accounts/.

Students receive a confirmation e-mail once they've been verified. **Wait to be verified before starting the application.** If students log into the application before being verified, they will need to completely log out to refresh their synced data before they are able to start.

Phase 3: Complete and Submit an Application

Step #1: Visit the NHS Scholarship landing page and click "Apply Now."

Visit nationalhonorsociety.org/scholarship.

The "Apply Now" link will only appear when the application is open. Open the application and log in using the same e-mail and password used for the NHS website.

Open the Profile and your account information will automatically populate. You'll need to answer one eligibility question before clicking "Create Profile."

Most application Profile data is populated from your NHS student account. You cannot change it here. If your account information is incorrect, such as the spelling of a student's name or school name, contact our team for assistance: nationalhonorsociety.org/contact/.

Reminder: If a student logs in before being verified, they will need to log out and then log back in to sync new Profile data.



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Step #2: Complete the 6 sections of your application

Academic Profile and Essay: Highlight your academic achievements and answer the essay question.

GPA on a 4.0 scale

Honors, AP or IB, or dual enrollment coursework

Specific coursework or independent learning

Awards or recognitions received

Demographic information

Essay: "Which pillar of National Honor Society resonates most with you and why? In your essay, you should discuss your personal experiences, core values, and/or philosophy that have shaped your commitment to this pillar. You should also explain how this pillar has influenced your academic, extracurricular, and personal life. We encourage you to highlight your personality, uniqueness, creativity, and individuality in your essay."

Service Profile: Share 3–8 service activities and explain your involvement, including your responsibilities, why the service was meaningful to you, what you learned, and/or what skills you demonstrated.

Title or description of activity

Categorize activity from a dropdown

Your involvement: participated/attended, contributed to its planning, led the activity, etc.

Your time: number of hours you contributed to research, planning, design, execution, reporting, etc.

Describe your personal involvement (150 words max).

Leadership Profile: Highlight your involvement in NHS and 1–6 other leadership roles. Additionally, share if you have started a chapter of an existing organization and/or founded your own nonprofit. For each response, students are encouraged to explain responsibilities, discuss leadership philosophy, and/or share skills and accomplishments in these roles.

Highlight NHS involvement and any officer role in NHS.

Title or short description of the organization, club, chapter, etc.

Select the level or title closest to your role: president, co-president, vice president, officer (treasurer, secretary, historian), or other.

Share the duration of your time as a leader in this organization.

Describe your personal involvement (150 words max).

NHS Adviser Certification: Submit a request for the NHS adviser to complete a form confirming the student is in good standing and would be a good national representative, including any comments they want to share for consideration.

Students enter a request in the application portal by entering the name and e-mail address of the NHS adviser. Students should confirm that they are using the correct e-mail address and ask the adviser to confirm receipt of the e-mail, which comes from No-reply@email.zenginehq.com with instructions and a unique link to complete for that student.



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Advisers are asked to answer a few multiple-choice questions about the student's role in the chapter and school and leave any comments in an open-ended response field. No letters of recommendation can be accepted.

The Adviser Certification is not the same as the verification process, which is needed to create an NHS website account. This form is a short recommendation and is only used for the NHS Scholarship.

Submit requests early! This form is due from the adviser before a student can submit their application. Students should prepare their accomplishments for the NHS adviser so that the adviser can help support their application.

Educator Recommendation: Submit a request for your recommender to complete a form speaking to your character, service, and leadership. The recommendation requires answers to specific questions, which is different from a standard letter of recommendation.

Students enter a request in the application portal by entering the name and e-mail address of the recommender. Students should confirm that they are using the correct e-mail address and ask the recommender to confirm receipt of the e-mail, which comes from No-reply@email.zenginehq.com with instructions and a unique link to complete for that student.

Recommenders have a much more substantial form to complete than the adviser. Be mindful of their time and prepare them so that they can provide the best support possible for you. The recommendation form must be completed before the student can submit their application.

Recommendations cannot be completed by the NHS adviser or family members. Speak with another teacher, school counselor, or administrator who can provide support.

Certification Statement: Review the terms of the award and certify that you are the one completing it.

Step #3: Submit your application

After all sections of the application are complete, the application can be submitted! It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the adviser and recommender complete their forms ahead of the deadline, as the student will be unable to submit without these components.

Have additional questions not answered in this guide?

- 1) Check out our [FAQs](#).
- 2) Contact us at scholarship@nationalhonorsociety.org.