STATE FAIR OF LOUISIANA

2026 State Fair Educational Scholarship

$1,000 Scholarship Award | Two Recipients

About the Scholarship

The State Fair of Louisiana is proud to offer the 2026 State Fair Educational Scholarship to recognize and support graduating high school seniors who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, service, and a commitment to continuing their education. Two selected recipients will each receive a one-time $1,000 scholarship to assist with eligible educational expenses.

Who Can Apply?

- Be a 12th-grade graduating senior during the 2026-2027 academic year and be on track to graduate.
- Live within Region 5: Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Lincoln, Bienville, Red River, De Soto, Sabine, Natchitoches, Winn, or Jackson Parish.
- Have a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA and submit an official or school-certified transcript.
- Plan to continue education at an accredited four-year college or university, community college, trade school, technical school, vocational program, or other accredited post-secondary institution.
- Complete at least 10 volunteer hours through an approved State Fair of Louisiana volunteer opportunity during the 2026 State Fair season.

State Fair Volunteer Requirement

Applicants must complete a minimum of 10 volunteer hours during the 2026 State Fair season. Approved opportunities may include admissions, brand ambassador activities, livestock areas, special events, exhibits and concessions, office assistance, and other fair operations. Simply attending the fair does not count as volunteer service.

You may submit your application before completing the volunteer requirement. After your hours are completed, bring your volunteer record to the State Fair office for verification. A State Fair official will sign the record, and a copy will be added to your application before it is considered complete.

What You Need to Submit

- Completed scholarship application
- Proof of 12th-grade enrollment
- Current official or school-certified transcript showing at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Proof of Region 5 residency
- Documentation of at least 10 State Fair volunteer hours
- A 500-1,000 word essay
- Two letters of recommendation
- List of accomplishments, honors, awards, and activities
- List of community service and volunteer involvement
- Intended college, university, trade school, or technical school

- Intended major, field of study, or career path
- Applicant contact information and parent/guardian information, if applicable

Essay Requirement

Essay Prompt: "Why have you chosen your intended major or career field, and how will this scholarship help you obtain this degree?"

The essay should explain why you selected your major or career field, what influenced your decision, what you hope to accomplish, how education will help you reach those goals, and how your future career may benefit your family, community, or society. You may also discuss personal experiences that influenced your goals.

- Minimum 500 words; maximum 1,000 words
- Typed and double-spaced
- 12-point readable font
- Applicant's name included on the essay
- Must be the applicant's own work

Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required.

Recommendation #1 - School Official

May be from a principal, assistant principal, counselor, teacher, career counselor, or other school administrator.

Recommendation #2 - Additional Adult Reference

May be from a teacher, coach, employer, community leader, volunteer coordinator, church/community organization leader, or mentor.

Letters should address the applicant's character, academic commitment, leadership, responsibility, community involvement, work ethic, and potential for success after graduation. Recommendations from immediate family members will not be accepted.

Accomplishments & Activities

Applicants should provide a list of accomplishments and involvement during high school. Include dates or years and a brief description when possible. Examples include academic awards and honor societies; student government or club leadership; athletics; arts and music; employment or internships; certifications; agricultural or career/technical programs; church or community service; nonprofit involvement; and other significant achievements.

Application Deadline

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

All required application materials must be received by the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants are responsible for making sure all required documents and signatures have been submitted.

How Applications Are Reviewed

Applications will be reviewed by the State Fair of Louisiana Scholarship Committee using the same established criteria for each applicant. Review areas include the essay, leadership and accomplishments, community service, State Fair volunteer service, letters of recommendation, and career and educational goals.

Scholarship Award & Conditions

Two selected recipients will each receive a one-time $1,000 State Fair Educational Scholarship. Recipients must successfully graduate from high school, provide proof of enrollment in an accredited post-secondary institution, provide the institution's scholarship payment information, and use the award for educational purposes.

Before You Submit

Review your application carefully and make sure every required item is included. Missing materials may cause your application to be considered incomplete. Keep a copy of your application and supporting documents for your records.