COLLEGE & CAREER
OCTOBER 2026 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

Scholarships, deadlines, grade levels, awards & application links

Use this guide to prioritize upcoming deadlines. Always verify current requirements and dates on the provider's official website before submitting.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Apply early whenever possible!

Scholarship	Award	Grade	Deadline	Website
Positive Coaching Alliance Tampa Bay Triple Impact Competitor	$2,000	12	10/8/26	https://positivecoach.org
International High School Essay Contest – Pi Iota Chapter, Omega Psi Phi	Varied	12	10/31/26	https://oppfPilota.org
VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition	$1,000–$35,000	9-12	10/31/26	https://www.vfw.org/youth
The Elks Foundation – Most Valuable Student	$1,000–$7,500/yr	12	11/12/26	https://www.elks.org/scholars
Mensa Foundation	Varied	12	11/15/26	https://www.mensafoundation.org
Burger King Scholars	$1,000–$60,000	12	12/15/26	https://www.bk-scholars.com
JFK Library Profile in Courage Essay Contest	Varied	9-12	1/11/27	https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/essay-contest
Dell Scholars Program	$20,000	12	1/12/27	https://www.dellscholars.org
JCI Senate Scholarship Program	$1,500	12	1/12/27	https://www.jciusa.org/senate
Spectrum Bay News 9 Project Weather	$1,000	12	1/19/27	https://www.baynews9.com/project-weather

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH RESOURCES

Deadlines vary by individual opportunity.

Resource	Award	Grade	Deadline	Website
Scholly	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.myscholly.com
Fastweb	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.fastweb.com
Scholarships.com	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.scholarships.com
Appily	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.appily.com
Scholarship America	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.scholarshipamerica.org
Cirkled In No Sweat Scholarship	$2,500	Not listed	Not listed	https://www.cirkledin.com/no-sweat-scholarship
Hispanic Scholarship Fund – Scholarship Finder	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.hsf.net
Thurgood Marshall College Fund	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.tmcf.org
Gates Millennium Scholars	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.gmsp.org
AAPI Scholarship Fund	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.aapischolarshipfund.org
American Indian College Fund	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.collegefund.org
Native Forward Scholars Fund	Varied	Not listed	Not listed	https://www.nativeforward.org
UNCF	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://uncf.org
Reagan Foundation Scholarship Programs	Varied	Varies	Varies	https://www.reaganfoundation.org/education/scholarships

ONGOING & VARIABLE-DEADLINE OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarship	Award	Grade	Deadline	Website
Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star Grant Program	Varied	12	Varies	https://www.floridaoes.org/scholarships
College Board BigFuture Opportunity	$500–$40,000	9-12	Ongoing	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
Raise.me Micro-Scholarships	Varied	9-12	9/15/25 & beyond	https://www.raise.me

FINANCIAL AID & STATE PROGRAMS

Program	Award	Grade	Deadline	Website
Florida Bright Futures	Varied	12	Reqs. by 8/31/26	https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org
FAFSA	Varied	12	Varies by school	https://studentaid.gov/fafsa

UNIVERSITY-SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS

School	Award	Grade	Deadline	Website
Hillsborough College	Varied	12	Varies	https://www.hccfl.edu/scholarships
University of South Florida Foundation	Varied	12	Varies	https://www.usf.edu/give/scholarships
University of Tampa	Varied	12	Varies	https://www.ut.edu/admissions/financial-aid

QUICK ELIGIBILITY NOTES

Review official links for complete rules.

- **Positive Coaching Alliance:** Unweighted GPA of 2.5+; U.S. resident within 120 miles of Tampa Bay; participates in an individual or team sport sponsored by a school or local club.
- **Omega Psi Phi Essay Contest:** Open to college-bound high school seniors.
- **VFW Voice of Democracy:** Permanent U.S. resident; enrolled in high school; written and recorded essay required.
- **The Elks Foundation:** Current high school senior and U.S. citizen.
- **Dell Scholars:** Scholarship and college-completion program; applications open October 1.
- **Burger King Scholars:** Applications open October 15.
- **JCI Senate:** For high school seniors planning to attend an accredited postsecondary college, university, or vocational school.
- **Spectrum Bay News 9 Project Weather:** One qualified senior from Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk will be chosen.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Review eligibility before starting.
- ☐ Add the deadline to your calendar.
- ☐ Request transcripts and recommendations early.
- ☐ Draft and proofread essays.
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA when applicable.
- ☐ Submit before the deadline and save confirmation.
- ☐ Check scholarship provider websites for updates.