



AFSA 2026 Diann Woodard Scholarship Application Instructions

The AFSA Diann Woodard Scholarship is available exclusively to the children of AFSA members in good standing. The AFSA General Executive Board selects the awardees based on academic excellence, passion for volunteerism and display of exceptional work ethic.

The program helps students continue their education by awarding five one-time \$2,500 college tuition scholarships to outstanding high school seniors. This year, there will be a supplemental \$2,000 award added to each scholarship courtesy of M³ Technology.

All applicants must be a graduating high school senior who will be attending college for the first time in 2026. Applicants who apply must clearly express their goals for the future and appropriately tie these goals to their higher education aspirations.

The application deadline is January 16, 2026, 11:59PM PST. If you have any questions about the scholarship application process, please call the AFSA National Office at 202-986-4209 or email afsa@AFSAadmin.org.

Application submission is on-line ONLY at <https://AFSAScholarshipApplication.org>. To fill out an application on-line and submit it, applicants must first register (note – the registrant should be the applicant applying for the scholarship, using their name and personal email address, AFSA parents are NOT to register, only the applicant may register) to access the web site, and then log in with their email address and password. Once the applicant submits their registration information, the applicant will receive an email shortly to confirm registration. If you do not receive an email in a few minutes, please check your SPAM or JUNK folders. The email will be coming from afsa@AFSAadmin.org. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL WITHIN 10 MINUTES, please email afsa@AFSAadmin.org so we can help you get your registration approved and activated. If you attempt to login to the site before your account is activated, you will be locked out of the site for a short period of time.

Once the applicant is logged into the site, there is a 2-step process. First is to fill out a Scholarship Application Profile, and then when that is submitted, the Scholarship Application Essay must be completed. Please note that the applicant can log in at any time through January 16, 2026, 11:59PM PST to edit and update their application.

It is important for the applicant to be sure that the application is complete, leaving nothing blank or not filled in. The applicant must also upload an official copy of their high school transcript as well as a “headshot” photo of themselves. Applications that are not complete by the deadline, January 16, 2026, 11:59PM PST, will not be considered for an award.

The applicant must also arrange for 2 personal evaluations. The personal evaluations are to be submitted on-line by the evaluator going to <https://AFSAScholarshipApplication.org> and clicking the link for submitting evaluations. No registration or login is required to submit a personal evaluation. However, the evaluator is required to enter the applicant’s email address that the applicant used to submit their application. Make sure you give that email address to your evaluators and instruct them to review these same instructions on the website and note the rubric that follows to understand how evaluations are scored.

AFSA 2026 Scholarship Application RUBRIC

Objectives	Superior (4-5 points)	Average (2-3 points)	Below Average (1 point)
Stated reason for applying	Expresses strong commitment to pursuing education beyond secondary school; uses anecdotal evidence. May or may not also state financial need.	States financial need without reference.	Little to no supporting evidence of need or commitment to educational pursuits.
Clear expression of personal goals	Clearly expresses their goals for the future and appropriately ties these goals to their higher education aspirations. Examples of how these goals are/have been pursued provided.	Future goals are less clear. Provides few tie-ins among questions and education aspirations.	Little to no mention of future goals. Only answers given questions.
Gives back to the community	Details commitment to their community (school, local community, etc.) by listing their jobs, volunteer work and other non-school extra-curricular activities; able to tie in these examples within essay responses.	Details commitment to their community (school, local community, etc.) by listing their jobs, volunteer work and other non-school extra-curricular activities solely through listed response.	Little to no mention of community commitment via essay responses or list of activities.
Participation in clubs, organizations, jobs, etc.	Participated in 3-5 groups throughout secondary school career; served as an officer; received awards for service.	Participated in at least 3 groups; may or may not have served as an officer or received awards.	Participated in less than 3 groups.

Student academic achievement	Excelled in academic achievement; Honors/AP student; received recognition for academic achievement (i.e. National Honors Society member, etc.)	Fair academic achievement; may or may not have received academic recognition.	Poor academic achievement.
Personal evaluations	Evaluation completed by evaluator familiar with applicant's academic activities. Evaluator expands beyond given form and elaborates on applicant's personal character and specifically references commitment to higher education pursuits.	Evaluation completed by evaluator familiar with applicant's academic activities. May or may not include additional reference information.	Evaluation barely completed or incomplete.