



SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS PROGRAM

FALL 2026

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Scholarships & Awards Overview

One of the major challenges for people pursuing their goals, whether in education, career, or personal development, is funding. The NSLS Foundation helps to eliminate these challenges by providing a diverse range of scholarships and awards to NSLS members who are committed to building a better world. Each year, NSLS members have the opportunity to apply for over \$400,000 in scholarships and awards.

Given the competitive nature of our scholarship programs, applicants are encouraged to submit their best work to increase their chances of receiving a scholarship, grant, or award.

Eligibility/Who Can Apply?

All applicants must be registered members of the NSLS. Registered members include both pre-inducted and inducted members.

Pre-inducted members are members who have accepted their nominations to join the NSLS but have not yet completed the [Foundations of Leadership Steps to Induction](#).

Inducted members are members who have completed this training. The Foundations of Leadership program includes Orientation, Leadership Training Day, three Speaker Broadcasts, and three Success Networking Team meetings. It is not necessary to have attended an induction ceremony to be considered a fully inducted member.

Each of our scholarships and awards has its own set of eligibility criteria. To assist you in determining which scholarships and awards you are eligible to apply for, we have created a [comprehensive guide](#). This guide provides the name of each scholarship and award, the corresponding page number where you'll find more details, the award amount, how many are available, and who is eligible to apply.

Our goal is to make the application process as clear and straightforward as possible. Please review the eligibility requirements for each scholarship and award carefully to ensure you meet the criteria before applying.



International Students & Non-U.S. Citizen NSLS Members

The NSLS Foundation welcomes international students and non-U.S. citizen NSLS members to apply for any award, scholarship, and/or grant if you meet that specific scholarship/award criteria. If chosen as a winner, as long as you are able to complete a W8-BEN form for tax purposes, you are allowed to apply for our scholarships. This also applies to F1-VISA and DACA students.

This form requires you to be able to enter a U.S. Taxpayer identification number (SSN or ITIN) or a Foreign Tax Identifying Number (FTIN). If you are unsure, we encourage you to consult with a tax professional and/or the international program at your university for help.

You can find information about the W8-BEN form on the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-8-ben>

If you are chosen as a winner, a representative of the NSLS will send these forms to you to complete at that time.

Open Scholarship Periods and Deadlines

There are two general NSLS scholarship application windows during the year. Fall scholarships open in early September, and Spring Scholarships open in late January. Applications are accepted for approximately eight weeks. Email announcements are sent out to all registered members once scholarships have opened up with exact open and close dates. Please see the table below for our Fall 2026 enrollment and deadline dates. There are no exceptions to these deadlines. Late applications and applications missing any required documentation will not be considered under any circumstances.

The application window closes at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date.

Terms:

- Fall 2026: September 1, 2026 - October 23, 2026

Deadlines:

- Fall 2026: October 23, 2026



How Can I Apply for Scholarships and Awards?

Stephen Covey Tribute Award applications may be submitted to awards@nsls.org. Please note that these awards are **only available during the Spring season**.

Scholarship applications must be submitted through the NSLS Foundation's partnering organization, "Scholar's App" (scholarsapp.com). Scholar's App is a platform that connects students not only to NSLS scholarships but to hundreds of additional scholarship sponsors. The app keeps track of the entire scholarship application process for you.

It's easy to apply!

1. Either click on the links in the NSLS scholarship emails sent to you or visit scholarsapp.com.
2. Create a free Scholar's App profile.
3. In the search bar, type "NSLS" to find NSLS-specific scholarships.
4. Submit your applications during our open enrollment periods.

We have also included some video tutorials and step-by-step PDF guides below to walk you through the Scholar's App website and scholarship application process:

- [Video - How to Set Up Your Scholars App Profile and Find NSLS Scholarships](#)
- [Video - Applying for an NSLS Scholarship](#)
- [Video - Understanding the Letter of Recommendation Process and Finding Additional Scholarships on Scholars App](#)
- [Step-By-Step PDF Guide - Setting up your Student Profile on Scholar's App](#)
- [Step-By-Step PDF Guide- Scholarship Application Walkthrough](#)
- [Step-By-Step PDF Guide- Understanding the NSLS Recommendation Process](#)

For assistance with finding additional scholarships outside those offered by the NSLS, please contact Scholar's App directly at hello@scholarsapp.com.

To help you with your scholarship application process, we've added a new "[Scholarship Application Tips](#)" section. We also encourage you to thoroughly review our updated [FAQs section](#) at the end of this packet for common scholarship questions we've received in most recent scholarship seasons.

Please be advised that we have made some significant changes to our scholarships and awards this year. Please review each scholarship criteria carefully for updated eligibility and scholarship essay/application requirements.



When Will Scholarship and Award Winners Be Announced?

The NSLS sends out a winner email announcement to all members on the following dates:

- Fall 2026 Announcement: December 15, 2026

How Do I Know If I Have Won?

After the NSLS winner email announcement is sent to all NSLS members on the specified dates, individual scholarship and award winners will be contacted by an NSLS representative separately within 24-48 hours. This follow-up email will include next steps and any necessary paperwork to complete the processing of your payment.

How and When Can I Expect to Receive My Scholarship Payment?

The Academic Excellence Scholarship is sent to your university via check. All other scholarship payments are made directly to you via direct deposit. If you are announced as a winner and prefer to receive a check instead of direct deposit, you can indicate this preference during the payment paperwork process.

Scholarships are generally paid within 30 days of contacting the scholarship winner. However, the timeline depends on how quickly winners complete their tax and banking paperwork. Once banking information has been received, payments are typically processed within four weeks. If you choose to receive a check instead, it may take a few weeks longer. If incorrect banking information is provided, this may result in delays in payment.

If you have any questions or concerns about the application process, please contact us at awards@nsls.org.



List of Scholarships and Awards

The NSLS Foundation wants to provide everyone with an opportunity to discover their leadership potential. Since 2001, our scholarship program has awarded over \$2,000,000 in scholarships and awards to NSLS members and chapters. We encourage all those who qualify to apply.

Stephen Covey Tribute Awards

The following awards are open for applications during our **Spring scholarship season ONLY**.

Scholarship/ Award Title	Award Amount	Number Awarded each term	Who can apply
Chapter of the Year	\$2000 toward chapter dues *\$150 for each Executive Board member up to 12 members	1	Chapter advisors and/or Executive Board members, <i>please coordinate and submit only one application per chapter.</i>
Chapter of the Year Runner-Up	\$1000 toward chapter dues *\$100 for each Executive Board member - up to 12 members	1	Chapter advisors and/or executive board members, <i>please coordinate and submit only one application per chapter.</i>
Advisor of the Year	\$1500	1	Chapter Advisors
Advisor of the Year Runner-Up	\$750	1	Chapter Advisors



Executive Board Member of the Year	\$1500	1	Chapter Executive Board Members
Executive Board Member of the Year Runner-Up	\$750	1	Chapter Executive Board Members

*If chapter winners have more than 12 Executive Board members, \$1800 for Chapter of the Year and \$1200 for Chapter of the Year Runner-Up will be divided evenly amongst all E-Board members.

Spring/Fall General Scholarships and Awards

The following scholarships and awards are open for applications during both our **Spring and Fall scholarship seasons**.

Scholarship/ Award Title	Award Amount	Number Awarded each term	Who can apply
Dream Support Grant	\$25,000 to be divided among recipients	Varies	All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's & PhD included), and alumni.
Academic Excellence Scholarship	\$3,000	12	All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events with a 3.7+ GPA. This includes undergraduates and students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included). Alumni are NOT eligible to apply.



New Member Impact Scholarship	\$1000	20	All new members who are within their first 365 days of enrollment. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's & PhD included), and alumni. Must have completed at least three steps toward induction. You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
Continuing Member Impact Scholarship	\$1000	20	NSLS members of an online NSLS chapter. This includes undergraduates and students in advanced degree programs (Master's & PhD included). Alumni are NOT eligible to apply for this scholarship. Must have completed at least three steps toward induction. You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.



Alumni Award	\$1000	5	All fully inducted NSLS Alumni members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events. Alumni and those enrolled in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students) are welcome to apply. Undergraduates are NOT eligible to apply for this scholarship.
Healthy Living Scholarship	\$1000	10	All NSLS members who have completed at least three steps toward induction. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students) and alumni. You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
Practicing Leadership Scholarship	\$1000 Winner \$500 Runner-Up	1 winner & 1 runner-up	All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events who are enrolled in and have completed the Advanced Leadership Training Certification. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included), and alumni.



<u>Living Leadership Scholarship</u>	\$1000 Winner \$500 Runner-Up	1 winner & 1 runner-up	All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events who are enrolled in and have completed the Executive Leadership Training Certification. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included), and alumni.
<u>United by Purpose: Building Equitable Leaders Scholarship</u>	\$1000	10	All NSLS members who have completed at least three steps toward induction. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students) and alumni. You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
<u>Student Success Scholarship</u>	\$1000	15	All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students) and alumni.



Scholarships and Awards Tips

The tips and suggestions provided in this section are intended to help applicants improve their scholarship applications. While we believe these tips can enhance the quality of your submission, they do not guarantee that your application will be chosen. The selection process is competitive and based on various factors, and each application is evaluated on its own merits. We encourage all applicants to use these tips as a guide and to present their unique qualifications and experiences in the best possible light.

What do you look for in a strong application?

The NSLS receives a high volume of applications each submission term and evaluates applications based on the specific purpose and description of each scholarship. Historically, the strongest applications include the following characteristics:

1. Required questions are answered with complex responses that are well thought-out. The provided details and examples fully support the purpose and goal of the scholarship, grant, or award.
2. The structure of the essay is organized, cohesive, and free of grammatical errors, with proper use of vocabulary. Do not include extraneous words or content.
3. The information presented conveys that the member understands the NSLS mission, which is “building leaders who make a better world.”
4. Submitted materials reflect creativity and original thought.

Tips for Writing a Winning Scholarship Essay -

<https://www.nsls.org/blog/how-to-write-a-scholarship-essay>



Scholarship Do's and Don'ts

Do's:

- **Proofread Your Essay:** Check your essay carefully for spelling and grammatical errors. Take advantage of your university's writing center or tutoring services to have your essay reviewed. Allow ample time for this before the deadline.
- **Make It Personal:** Ensure your essay is personal and includes strong examples for all outlined prompts. Your unique perspective and experiences make your application stand out.
- **Upload All Required Documentation:** Ensure you have all necessary documents, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts (if required), uploaded. Applications cannot be submitted without these.
- **Coordinate Letters of Recommendation:** If a letter of recommendation is required, reach out to your recommender before sending the link via Scholar's App. Share the scholarship details, explain why you are applying, and make sure they are aware of the deadline.
- **Double-Check Your Information:** Make sure your name, address, email address, and phone number are accurate in your application. We also encourage you to make sure this information is updated in your NSLS member profile.
- **Seek Help if Needed:** Contact Scholar's App directly if you have any difficulties creating your profile or uploading documents. For questions about deadlines, criteria, or eligibility, email the NSLS at awards@nsls.org. But please do not wait until the last minute to ensure your questions are answered prior to scholarship deadlines.
- **Submit a High-Quality Headshot:** Include a high-resolution headshot. Avoid selfies, group pictures, and low-quality images. Ask someone to take a clear picture of you from the waist up in a bright area with a neutral background. We want you to shine in your photo, so don't forget to smile!

Don'ts:

- **Avoid Using AI for Essays:** Do not use AI technology to create your essay. This is forbidden and will result in disqualification.



- **Don't Procrastinate:** Start your application early, especially if it requires additional documentation like letters of recommendation and transcripts.
- **Avoid Last-Minute Submissions:** Try not to wait until the last day to submit your application, as you might need assistance from the NSLS team.
- **Submit Correctly:** Unless you are applying for a Stephen Covey Tribute Award, do not send applications to awards@nsls.org. All applications, except for the Stephen Covey Tribute Awards, must be submitted via Scholar's App.
- **Keep Trying:** Don't avoid applying for scholarships just because you haven't won in the past. Our scholarships are competitive, and a strong essay could be chosen another year.
- **Tailor Your Essays:** Do not use the same essay for multiple scholarships. Each scholarship has specific criteria, and your essay should be tailored accordingly.
- **Stay Positive:** Don't get discouraged if you don't win a scholarship this time. You are welcome to reapply in the future!



Stephen Covey Tribute Awards

Chapter of the Year

Advisor of the Year

Executive Board Member of the Year



Chapter of the Year

*Applications for this award are **ONLY** accepted during our Spring scholarship season. Please review the "[Open Scholarships Periods and Deadlines](#)" section of this packet for Spring scholarship dates.*

Each year, the NSLS recognizes one Chapter of the Year for the impact it has had upon both its members and the surrounding community. This prestigious award is awarded to the chapter that continuously demonstrates excellent leadership to its members, campus, and community.

We will also recognize one additional Chapter of the Year Runner-Up winner.

Chapter of the Year Award

Total Award Value: Up to \$3,800 divided as follows:

- **\$2,000** towards chapter dues
- **\$150** for each Executive Board member, up to 12 members. If there are more than 12 E-Board members, \$1,800 will be divided evenly amongst all E-Board members.
- **Certificate of Recognition**

Chapter of the Year Runner-Up Award

Total Award Value: Up to \$2,200 divided as follows:

- **\$1,000** towards chapter dues
- **\$100** for each Executive Board member, up to 12 members. If there are more than 12 E-Board members, the \$1,200 will be divided evenly amongst all E-Board members.
- **Certificate of Recognition**

Eligibility

- One application per chapter. Only current Chapter Advisors OR Executive Board Members may submit an application for this award.

Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrates dedication to the stated NSLS mission, "building leaders who make a better world."



- Exemplifies outstanding chapter development, membership support, and leadership training.
- Actively engages in campus and community volunteerism.

Requirements

- A cover letter that includes your name, your position within your NSLS chapter (Advisor/Executive Board Member title), your chapter name, and all social media outlets for your chapter: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.
- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 1000 words answering the following questions:
 - a. How has your chapter demonstrated outstanding dedication to the NSLS mission, chapter development, member growth, and leadership training?
 - b. Describe a project or initiative your chapter has led or contributed to, inspired by your NSLS journey, that made a measurable difference in your local area or community.
- At least 5 high-resolution color photographs from chapter events, each 300KB or higher

To Apply

Please send your essay and photographs to awards@nsls.org during the Spring Term by the stated deadlines. We recommend creating a non-password-protected Google Drive folder containing your essay and photographs and submitting a link to this folder.



Advisor of the Year

*Applications for this award are **ONLY** accepted during our Spring scholarship season. Please review the "[Open Scholarships Periods and Deadlines](#)" section of this packet for Spring scholarship dates.*

NSLS Chapter Advisors are vital to the development, perpetuation, and strength of the NSLS mission. Not only are they mentors and leaders to the Executive Board and local chapter members, but they also serve as liaisons with the campus administration. Each year the NSLS recognizes one advisor that truly exemplifies the NSLS mission and goes above and beyond expectations.

We will also recognize one additional Advisor of the Year Runner-Up winner.

Advisor of the Year Award

- **\$1500** to the winner
- **Certificate of Recognition**

Advisor of the Year Runner-Up Award

- **\$750** to the winner
- **Certificate of Recognition**

Eligibility

- Advisors must apply for this award on their own behalf.
- Advisor exemplifies the qualities of a leader by successfully running a chapter.
- Advisor provides an inclusive environment for all members.
- Advisor supplies a consistently high level of support to the Executive Board and members.
- Advisor maintains consistent communication with the National Office.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 1000 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. Why did you choose to become an NSLS chapter advisor?
 - b. How do you embody the NSLS's mission of building leaders who make a better world?



- c. How do you go above and beyond to support your chapter executive board and chapter members? Please provide specific examples or situations over the past year that may help support your answer.
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.
 - One letter of recommendation from a current Executive Board member.

To Apply

Please send your essay and letter of recommendation to awards@nsls.org during the Spring Term by the stated deadlines.



Executive Board Member of the Year

*Applications for this award are **ONLY** accepted during our Spring scholarship season. Please review the "[Open Scholarships Periods and Deadlines](#)" section of this packet for Spring scholarship dates.*

Each year, the NSLS recognizes one Executive Board member for their outstanding contributions to their chapter and the NSLS mission. This prestigious award is given to an Executive Board member who consistently demonstrates exceptional leadership, dedication, and service to their chapter, campus, and community.

We will also recognize one additional Executive Board Member of the Year Runner-Up winner.

Executive Board Member of the Year Award

- **\$1500** to the winner
- **Certificate of Recognition**

Executive Board Member of the Year Runner-Up Award

- **\$750** to the winner
- **Certificate of Recognition**

Eligibility

- E-Board members must apply for this award on their own behalf.
- E-Board Member exemplifies the qualities of a leader by successfully assisting with running a chapter.
- Executive Board member provides an inclusive environment for all members.
- Executive Board member supplies a consistently high level of support to the chapter members.
- Executive Board member maintains consistent communication with the Chapter Advisor and the National Office.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 1000 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. Why did you choose to become an NSLS Executive Board member?



- b. How do you embody the NSLS's mission of building leaders who make a better world?
- c. How do you go above and beyond to support your fellow Executive Board members and chapter members? Please provide specific examples or situations over the past year that may help support your answer.
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.
- One letter of recommendation from your current chapter advisor.

To Apply

Please send your essay and letter of recommendation to awards@nsls.org during the Spring Term by the stated deadlines.



Spring/Fall General Scholarships and Awards

Academic Excellence Award

Dream Support Grant

New Member Impact Award

Continuing Member Impact Award

Student Success Scholarship

Living Leadership Scholarship

Practicing Leadership Scholarship

Alumni Award

United By Purpose:

Building Equitable Leaders Award

Healthy Living Scholarship



Academic Excellence Scholarship

Number of winners - 12

Higher education is one of the most valuable investments any individual can make in their future. It requires a commitment to education and discipline to persevere through the academic rigors of undergraduate or graduate studies. This scholarship recognizes inducted members who exemplify leadership accomplishments, as well as high academic standing.

Award

- **\$3,000** toward undergraduate or graduate tuition paid directly to your current university (the university you are currently attending at the time of application) towards your tuition.
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events. This includes high school students taking undergraduate courses, undergraduates, and students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included). It is not necessary for you to have attended an induction ceremony to be eligible.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7.
- Must be a currently enrolled university student at the time of application submission.
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply.
- **Alumni are NOT eligible to apply.**



Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. What has been the biggest obstacle to your academic success, and how did you overcome it?
 - b. What do you intend to do with the degree you are currently working towards (if known)?
 - c. Please share at least one example of how your NSLS membership has positively impacted you personally.
 - d. Share a specific example of how you've applied skills or knowledge gained through your NSLS membership to create a meaningful change in your community.
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.
- Copy of current academic university transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) confirming current GPA.
- Letter of recommendation from a professional, academic, or personal reference discussing why you deserve to be a recipient of this award. *Please note that NSLS National Office staff are **not permitted** to provide letters of recommendation for this award.*

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



Dream Support Grant

Number of winners: Varies depending on the quality of applications received and amounts requested by applicants.

The NSLS Foundation aims to empower and engage individuals in embarking upon their dreams and aspirations. We recognize that working towards a personal goal can require tremendous effort, unyielding determination, and a deep sense of commitment. The purpose of this grant is to support individuals in achieving their dreams. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Starting or running a business.
- Starting a non-profit organization.
- Community-based initiatives.
- Study abroad opportunities.
- Academic research.
- Pursuing an advanced degree.
- Pursuing a passion.
- Publishing a book.

Award

- **Up to \$25,000** is available to be awarded for each scholarship term. This \$25,000 may be awarded in full to one recipient or it may be divided into smaller amounts shared over multiple recipients as determined by the scholarship review board. *Applicants **must specify** the amount they are requesting.*
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events. It is not necessary for you to have attended an induction ceremony to be eligible.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in



attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.

- You are welcome to apply whether you are still in school or have graduated.
- Must currently have or have graduated with a cumulative GPA of 3.0
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details are in our FAQs section.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. The amount you are requesting and where the money is specifically needed (provide a detailed outline of your anticipated costs).
 - b. How did your dream come to be? What are your action steps to achieve it, and what obstacles or challenges have you or do you expect to experience in achieving it? A detailed plan of action and clearly defined action steps are strongly encouraged here.
 - c. How will this grant directly contribute to you accomplishing your dream? If you do not receive the full funding you need from this grant or additional funding is required, what steps are you planning to take to secure this?
 - d. Please share at least one example of how your NSLS membership has positively impacted you personally.
 - e. Please share at least one example of how you have used your NSLS membership to positively impact others.
- Optional but strongly encouraged: Copies of receipts showing your current personal financial investment in your dream and/or official invoices or documents supporting your dream's anticipated expenses.
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.
- Copy of current academic university transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) confirming current GPA.
- Letter of Recommendation from a professional, academic, or personal reference discussing why you deserve to be a recipient of this award. *Please note that NSLS National Office staff are **not permitted** to provide letters of recommendation for this award.*



To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



New Member Impact Scholarship

Number of winners- 20

New members join the NSLS every day, and the NSLS Foundation recognizes that many of these members will make an impact on their chapters, communities, and lives almost immediately. The New Member Impact Scholarship recognizes excellent members in their first year as NSLS members.

Award

- **\$1,000** to each winner
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All NSLS members who are within their first year of membership. See FAQ's for further details on verifying your join date. New NSLS members include high school students taking undergraduate courses, undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included), and alumni chapter members who have graduated and are in the workforce.
- New members must have completed at least **three** [Steps to Induction](#) (Orientation, Leadership Training Day, Speaker Broadcasts, and/or SNT meetings). You are not required to be a fully inducted member to apply for this award.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details are in our FAQs section.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:



- a. Why did you decide to join the NSLS?
 - b. Please share at least one example of how your NSLS membership has positively impacted you personally.
 - c. How has your experience as an NSLS member equipped you to make a difference in your community? Provide a concrete example of your impact.
 - d. What do you want to achieve as an NSLS member? What experiences, projects, or opportunities are you most looking forward to?
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



NSLS Continuing Impact Scholarship

Number of winners - 20

The NSLS Continuing Impact Scholarship recognizes NSLS members beyond their first year of membership who exemplify sustained dedication to community engagement and leadership. This scholarship celebrates those who create meaningful, ongoing contributions to their communities or chapters, inspiring others to do the same.

Award

- **\$1,000** to each winner
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All NSLS members who have completed at least **three** [Steps to Induction](#) (Orientation, Leadership Training Day, Speaker Broadcasts, and/or SNT meetings). This includes high school student members taking undergraduate courses, undergraduates and students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included). You are not required to be a fully inducted member to apply for this award.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details are in our FAQs section.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. Why did you decide to join the NSLS?



- b. Please share at least one example of how your NSLS membership has positively impacted you personally.
 - c. How has your experience as an NSLS member equipped you to make a difference in your community? Provide a concrete example of your impact.
 - d. What do you want to achieve as an NSLS member? What experiences, projects, or opportunities are you most looking forward to?
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



Student Success Scholarship

Number of winners - 15

The NSLS Foundation designates a certain amount of scholarship funds for students in need of financial assistance toward their undergraduate or graduate degrees. This scholarship is intended to support higher education endeavors by assisting with non-tuition academic expenses such as textbooks, travel to educational conferences, study abroad opportunities, room and board, housing, commuting, childcare, or other financial needs while pursuing higher education.

Award

- **\$1,000** to each winner
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events. This includes high school student members taking undergraduate courses, undergraduates, and students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included). It is not necessary for you to have attended an induction ceremony to be eligible.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- Must be a currently enrolled university student at the time of application submission.
- Must demonstrate financial need towards non-tuition academic expenses.
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details are in our FAQs section.



Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. What are the financial circumstances that make you eligible for this scholarship?
 - b. How will this scholarship have an impact on your higher education?
 - c. Please share at least one example of how your NSLS membership has positively impacted you personally.
 - d. Describe a project or initiative you led or contributed to, inspired by your NSLS journey, that made a measurable difference in your local area or community.
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.
- Copy of academic transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) confirming your current enrollment in university.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



Living Leadership Scholarship

Number of winners - 1 winner and 1 runner-up

This scholarship is available to members who have enrolled in and completed the [Executive Leadership](#) program. This program allows members to continue and advance their leadership journey. Through the completion of an NSLS Better World project, the member's focus evolves from Practicing Leadership to Living Leadership, from being the mentee to being the mentor. The Executive Leadership program explores topics like Inclusive Leadership, Unconventional Solutions, and Perspective.

Award

- **\$1,000** to winner
- **\$500** to runner-up
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events and have **completed** their [Executive Leadership](#) program training. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included), and alumni members who have graduated and entered the workforce. It is not necessary for you to have attended an induction ceremony to be eligible.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details are in our FAQs section.

Requirements

- Completed online application



- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. Why did you choose to enroll in the Executive Leadership program?
 - b. Describe your NSLS Better World Project and tell us why you chose that particular project. How has this project positively impacted others?
 - c. Please share at least one example of how your Executive Leadership training has positively impacted you personally.
- A high-resolution photo of yourself, 300KB or larger.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



Practicing Leadership Scholarship

Number of winners - 1 winner and 1 runner-up

This scholarship is available to all members who have enrolled in and completed the [Advanced Leadership](#) program. This program allows members to continue their leadership journey, shifting their focus from one of self-growth to service of others, from learning leadership to practicing leadership, from being the motivated to being the motivator and empowering those around them. The Advanced Leadership program explores topics like Diversity of Styles, Emotional Intelligence, and Leveraging Your Strengths while also outlining how to identify and secure a mentor. Further, students acquire the skills needed to navigate the challenging situations that emerge in groups through experiential, in-the-moment problem-solving.

Award

- **\$1,000** to winner
- **\$500** to runner-up
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All fully inducted NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events and have **completed** their [Advanced Leadership](#) program. This includes undergraduates, students in advanced degree programs (Master's and PhD students included), and alumni members who have graduated and entered the workforce. It is not necessary for you to have attended an induction ceremony to be eligible.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details in our FAQs section.



Requirements

- Completed online application
- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. Why did you choose to enroll in the Advanced Leadership program?
 - b. Describe your community service initiative and tell us why you chose that particular project. How has this project positively impacted others?
 - c. Please share at least one example of how your Advanced Leadership training has positively impacted you personally.
- A high-resolution photo of yourself, 300KB or larger.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



Alumni Award

Number of Winners - 5

NSLS members excel as leaders long after they have achieved induction and graduated from college. The NSLS Foundation encourages these alumni members to continue to develop as leaders long after they leave campus. The Alumni Award recognizes those who are living the values of NSLS in their careers.

Award

- **\$1,000** to each winner
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All fully inducted Alumni NSLS members or those who have completed eight outside events or a combination of NSLS and outside events that total eight leadership events. Alumni members are members who have completed their undergraduate Bachelor's degree and are currently in the workforce or working toward a graduate degree (Master's and PhD included) — it is not necessary for you to have attended an induction ceremony to be eligible.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details are in our FAQs section.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers the following questions:
 - a. How are you living the values of the NSLS in your career/graduate work?
 - b. How did your experience in the NSLS help shape your career?



- c. What would you do with this award if you were chosen to receive it?
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



United By Purpose: Building Equitable Leaders

Number of Winners - 10

The United by Purpose: Building Equitable Leaders Scholarship supports the NSLS's commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusivity with the hope of creating a sense of belonging for everyone, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, challenged ability, or socioeconomic status. We support our entire community as we work alongside all who are adversely affected every day by systemic racism and injustice. This scholarship has been created for NSLS members and is a financial aid award to be used for all educational purposes, including tuition, books, resources, room and board, housing, commuting, childcare, and more. Our goal is to give a voice to all students and their individual perspectives.

Award

- **\$1,000** to each winner
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All NSLS members who have completed at least **three** [Steps to Induction](#) (Orientation, Leadership Training Day, Speaker Broadcasts, and/or SNT meetings). This includes undergraduates and students in advanced degree programs (Masters and PhD students included). You are not required to be a fully inducted member to apply for this award.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.
- Must be a currently enrolled university student at the time of application submission.
- Must demonstrate financial need towards academic expenses.



- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details are in our FAQs section.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers:
 - a. **ONE** of the following essay questions:
 - **Essay Option #1:** How would you explain the concepts and value of diversity, equity, and inclusion to someone who didn't understand them? How has your own perception of DEI changed or evolved over time?
 - **Essay Option #2:** What specific actions you have taken to help educate others about DEI or to implement it on your campus, in your workplace, or in your larger community (whether that's your city or town, on social media, or elsewhere).
 - b. What are the financial circumstances that make you eligible for this scholarship?
- A high-resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.
- Copy of academic transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) confirming your current enrollment in university.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



Healthy Living Scholarship

Number of winners - 10

The NSLS is dedicated to supporting our members in achieving holistic well-being, recognizing that emotional, physical, and mental health are crucial to overall happiness and success.

The Healthy Living Scholarship provides financial assistance to help you pursue a wide range of health and wellness goals, including physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, social, and environmental aspects. This support encompasses weight loss initiatives, disease management and prevention, self-care, spiritual healing and education, managing medical expenses, and mental health support. Additionally, we assist members in obtaining certifications or education in health-related fields, including yoga instructors, personal trainers, nutritionists, mental health professionals, doctors, nurses, and other mental or physical health professionals.

This scholarship is designed to foster overall well-being and holistic success by supporting both health and fitness-related goals and professional development in health-related fields.

Award

- **\$1,000** to each winner
- **Certificate of Accomplishment**

Eligibility

- All NSLS members who have completed at least **three** [Steps to Induction](#) (Orientation, Leadership Training Day, Speaker Broadcasts and/or SNT meetings). This includes undergraduates and students in advanced degree programs (Masters and PhD students included). You are not required to be a fully inducted member to apply for this award.
 - You may also apply for this scholarship by completing leadership development training outside of the NSLS. To do so, please upload documentation proving the course or event curriculum and that you completed the course or event. To qualify, you must prove that the course or event was already completed and that you are not currently in attendance. Examples include proof of a passing grade for a leadership course or a certificate of completion for a leadership event.



- International and non-US Citizens are welcome to apply, however, if chosen, you must be able to complete a W9 or W8-BEN form. Further details in our FAQs section.

Requirements

- A double-spaced, 12-point font essay of no more than 750 words which answers **ONE** of following two essay prompts:

a. Essay Option 1:

- What does healthy living mean to you, and what is your motivation to live a healthy life?
- What are your current healthy living goals? ****TIP- Remember your SMART goals training here!**
- How do you intend to use this scholarship toward your healthy living goals?
- How would achieving your healthy living goals impact your life?

b. Essay Option 2:

- What does healthy living mean to you, and what is your motivation to live a healthy life?
 - What healthy living educational/career goals are you currently pursuing, or would you like to pursue in the near future? Include a clear plan!
 - Why are you pursuing or interested in pursuing education/training in a health-related field?
 - How would receiving this scholarship make those goals possible?
- A high-resolution photo of yourself, 300KB or larger.

To Apply

Complete the online application through [Scholar's App](#) during the Fall or Spring Term by the deadlines stated on page 5 of this packet.



Scholarships and Awards FAQs

The NSLS Foundation Review Board checks submissions for proper eligibility and truthfulness. Eligibility requirements for each scholarship or award are specified separately. Inaccurate and incomplete applications will result in disqualification. The NSLS Foundation retains the right to not award a scholarship or grant at any given time, with the funds rolling over to the next award period. Should the NSLS Foundation learn of a winner's fraudulent application, the NSLS Foundation will exercise the right to rescind the award and revoke the applicant's NSLS membership.

General Scholarship Questions

The following questions are answered at the beginning of this packet:

- Who is eligible to apply for a scholarship?
- How can I apply for NSLS Scholarships and Awards?
- When are the scholarship deadline dates?
- I'm an international/non-US citizen student. Am I eligible to apply?

Q: How many scholarships and awards do you give out each year?

A: The number of scholarships we give out and the number of recipients per award varies each year. On average, we award around 300 scholarships and awards annually. This includes the scholarships outlined in this packet as well as scholarships and awards given out during our Speaker Broadcasts, leadership summits, and additional member prizes as determined by the NSLS National Office.

Q: Can members win more than one scholarship per scholarship season?

A: Members can only potentially win one scholarship per scholarship season. Members are welcome to maximize their opportunities to be chosen for a scholarship by applying for as many scholarships as they are eligible for (excluding a scholarship you have previously won).

Q: Can I reapply for the same scholarship if I won it in the past?

A: With the exception of the Stephen Covey Tribute Awards, scholarship winners cannot win the same scholarship more than once. For example, if you won our "Online Member" scholarship previously, you would no longer be able to win that scholarship



again moving forward. However, we encourage you to apply for other scholarships you are eligible for.

Q: Do I have to be an inducted member to apply for scholarships?

A: Each of our scholarships has its own set of eligibility criteria. Some scholarships are open to pre-inducted members (members who have not finished completing their steps toward induction), and some are only open to fully inducted members. Please review each scholarship criteria carefully to see if you are eligible to apply.

Q: I paid my membership fee, does that mean I'm fully inducted?

A: No. A fully inducted member is someone who has completed our foundations of leadership training program. This includes Orientation, Leadership Training Day, three speaker broadcasts, and three Success Networking Team Meetings. You are not required to have attended an induction ceremony to be considered fully inducted.

Q: I am not yet inducted, but I expect to be inducted by the end of the semester. Would I qualify for the “inducted member” scholarship requirement?

A: As long as all of your induction steps are completed and approved by the scholarships and awards deadline, you will qualify as an “inducted member.” This deadline may not correspond with the end of your semester. Please review [scholarship application deadlines](#).

Q: How can I verify if I'm a fully inducted member of the NSLS to determine my scholarship eligibility?

- A:**
1. Login to your NSLS member's area. We recommend doing this on a computer.
 2. Under “Program Progress” on your main dashboard (the window you see when you first login), look for “Foundations of Leadership.”
 3. If it shows “Completed” you are fully inducted. If not, you will be able to see where you're at in your induction process and what you have left to complete.
 4. If you are using your mobile device, login to your NSLS member's area. Click on the 3 lines on the top left hand corner of the screen and look for “Membership Status”. If your status shows that you have completed your orientation, leadership training day, 3 speaker broadcasts and 3 SNT meetings you are considered fully inducted.



Application Process

Q: Can I submit my application to awards@nsls.org instead of Scholar's App?

A: Only applications for Stephen Covey Tribute Awards (Chapter of the Year, Advisor of the Year, and Executive Board Member of the Year) may be submitted to awards@nsls.org.

ALL other scholarship applications MUST be submitted through [Scholar's App](#). Applications sent to awards@nsls.org for any scholarship other than the Stephen Covey Tribute Awards will not be considered for review.

If you are having technical issues with your scholarship application, please contact Scholar's App directly for assistance at hello@scholarsapp.com.

Q: Can I submit the same essay for multiple scholarships?

A: No. Each scholarship that we offer comes with its own specific requirements that must be met to apply. Therefore we ask that you tailor each of your scholarship essays/applications to the scholarship you are applying for. Submitting the exact same essay for multiple scholarships may disqualify you from consideration.

Q: Why do I need to upload a photograph for the scholarship application?

A: Uploading a photograph is an essential part of our scholarship application process. This image allows us to celebrate and recognize our scholarship winners on our website and other publications. We believe in highlighting the achievements and stories of our winners, and a photograph helps put a face to the name, adding a personal touch to our announcements. Your photo will help inspire future applicants and showcase the diverse and talented individuals who are a part of our scholarship community. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us celebrate your success!

Q: I don't know how to resize my photograph to 300KB or 1.7 MB. Can you please help?

A: We suggest consulting with your local school's IT department if you need further assistance resizing your photo. Google also has some great resources and tutorials to assist with resizing photos.

**Q: I am disabled/have a learning disability. Can you waive/adjust the GPA requirement for your scholarships?**

A: At this time, we must adhere to the policies and rules set forth by the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Education-Impacting Disabilities

Any individual (1) with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity; (2) who has a record of such an impairment; or (3) who is regarded as having such an impairment may qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Learning disabilities or disorders:

- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.
- Mental health disorders.
- Medical conditions.
- Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Autism spectrum disorder.

Examples of possible accommodations:

- Additional time for individual assignments or tests.
- Sign language interpreters.
- Note takers.
- Ergonomic seating for on-site classes.
- And others that pertain to your individual needs.

Members that have a documented EID, must meet the same initial eligibility standards as other members but may be provided certain accommodations to help meet those standards, however waiving or adjusting GPA requirements for our scholarships or adjusting the scholarship deadline due to our tight review schedule are not accommodations we can assist EID members with at this time.

Q: Can I edit my application after it has been submitted?

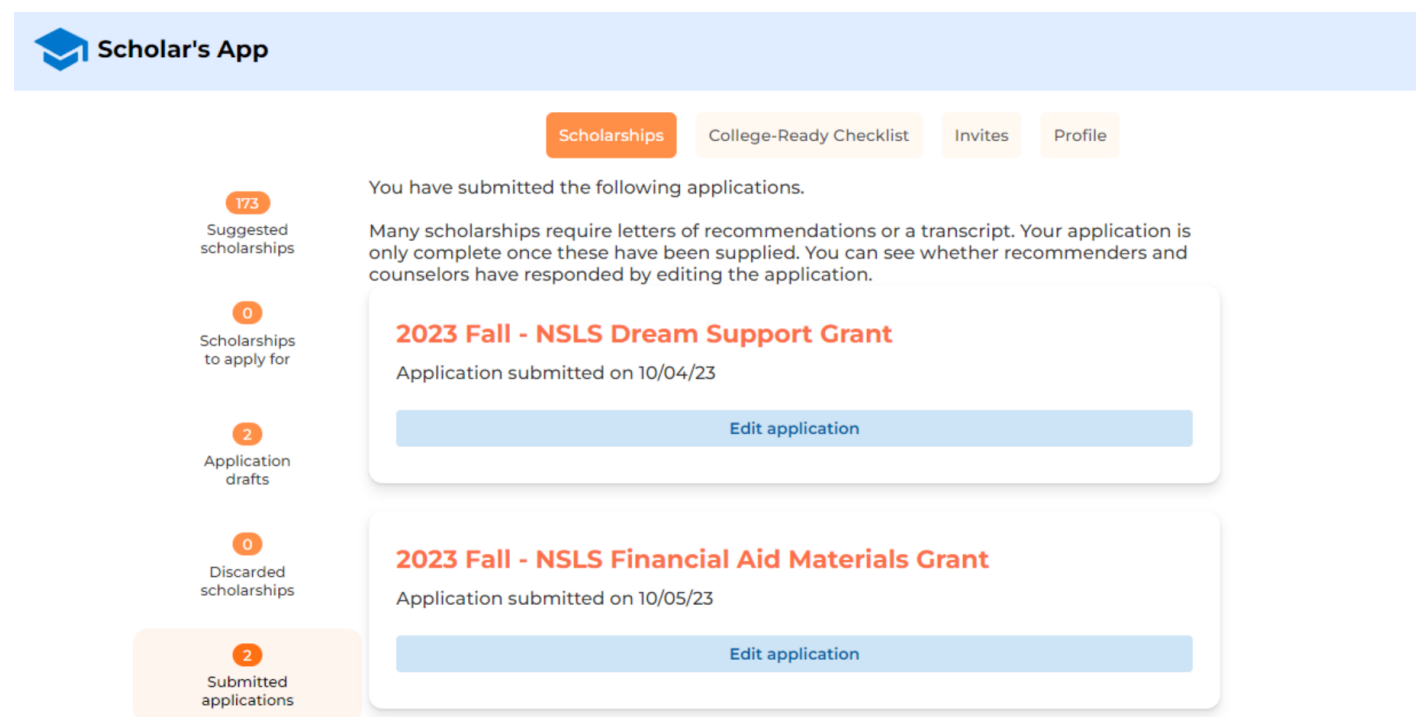
A: All application submissions are final. Applications cannot be modified once they have been submitted. Letters of recommendation may be received up until the deadline, but once the deadline has passed can no longer be added. Please review your application carefully before submission and allow enough time before the application deadline to request any additional documentation you may need. Please also ensure your recommenders are aware of the scholarship application deadline to ensure you



receive your letter of recommendation in time for any scholarships that require this additional documentation.

Q: I submitted an application, how can I verify it was received?

A: Once you submit your application through the Scholar's App platform, you will receive a confirmed notification at the top right of the screen. Additionally, if you navigate back to your student dashboard, on the left column, there is a button for "submitted applications." If you click this, you will see the applications you've submitted and if your application was received. Below is a screenshot of a student profile for reference:



If you need further assistance confirming submitted applications, please contact Scholar's App at hello@scholarsapp.com.

Q: I submitted my application, what happens next?

A: A winner email announcement will be sent by the NSLS to all NSLS members at the end of the scholarship season. See page 7 for the [winner email announcement dates](#).

After the NSLS winner email announcement is sent to all NSLS members, individual scholarship/award winners will be contacted by an NSLS representative separately.



within 24-48 hours with next steps and paperwork to be completed to process your payment.

Letter of Recommendation Questions

Q: Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation for my scholarship application?

A: The letter of recommendation should come from a professional, academic, or personal reference who knows you personally/professionally and can adequately discuss why you deserve to be a recipient of this award and qualify for it. Please note, that it is a conflict of interest for NSLS staff to provide a letter of recommendation for NSLS scholarships. We are unable to honor these requests.

Q: Can I request an NSLS letter of recommendation for an NSLS scholarship?

A: Unfortunately, it is a conflict of interest to request internal NSLS letters of recommendation for NSLS scholarships. We are unable to honor these requests.

Q: How do I request a letter of recommendation for my scholarship application?

A: For scholarships that require a letter of recommendation, these letters must be uploaded directly to your Scholar's App application by the person providing the recommendation. If the scholarship you are applying for requires a letter of recommendation, you will see a form within your application to send this request to your recommender's email address.

As a courtesy, we advise you to reach out to your recommender beforehand to ensure they are willing to provide a letter, are aware of the deadline, and to ask them to watch for the email request from Scholar's App. Remind your recommender to check their spam folder for this email. Once received, they will need to create a recommender account and upload the letter for you.

Here is a tutorial you can provide to your recommender so they understand what to look out for and how to upload their letter to your application:

- [Video Tutorial](#)
- [Step-by-Step PDF tutorial](#)



Q: I sent a letter of recommendation request, but my recommender never received it or is having difficulty uploading the letter. What can I do?

A: If your recommender did not receive the request or is unable to upload the letter, they can email the letter of recommendation to hello@scholarsapp.com for it to be uploaded to your application. Please ensure the email includes the following information:

1. The recommender's name
2. Your name and the email address you are using to apply for the scholarship
3. The chapter you are a member of (your university name)
4. The name of the scholarship you are applying for

Once the letter is uploaded, you must log in, finalize, and submit your application before the deadline. Please note that you will not be able to view the contents of the letter.

Applicants may not upload their own letters of recommendation or email them to Scholar's App on their behalf. Letters must be sent directly from the recommender, and their email address should match the one you provided in your original recommendation request. Ensure you allow sufficient time before the scholarship deadline for your recommender to submit the letter. We cannot make exceptions for letters submitted after the deadline.

As a reminder, it is a conflict of interest for internal NSLS staff to provide a letter of recommendation for NSLS scholarships. We are unable to honor these requests.

Scholarship Review Process

Q: How do you select scholarship recipients?

A: Each scholarship application is evaluated by the NSLS Review Board based on the criteria specific to each individual scholarship, including applicant eligibility and truthfulness. We encourage members to ensure they are tailoring each application they submit to that specific scholarship and answering all essay prompts with thorough, well-thought-out responses. Please see our [“Scholarships and Awards Tips”](#) section for more helpful suggestions to assist you with your application process.

Q: Can an application be disqualified?

A: Yes, applications that are inaccurate or incomplete are automatically disqualified. If a scholarship winner submits a fraudulent application or an essay is created using AI



technology, we have the right to rescind the award and revoke the applicant's membership to The NSLS.

Q: Can I see when my application is being reviewed after it has been submitted?

A: No, you will not be able to see when your application is in review.

Questions About Specific Scholarships

Q: I am applying for the Dream Support Grant, how much money can I ask for in my application?

A: The Dream Support Grant is the only scholarship where we ask you to specify an amount you are asking for. \$25,000 is available each scholarship season (both Fall and Spring) for this award. This scholarship may be awarded in full to 1 recipient or may be divided into smaller amounts over multiple recipients as determined by the scholarship review board. We discourage members from asking for the full \$25,000 unless you can adequately justify the need in your essay and supporting documents (receipts/invoices etc).

Q: What are some examples of past Dream Support Grant winners?

A: Past Dream Support Grant winners have requested funding for a variety of projects, including:

- Starting a new non-profit organization.
- Supporting or expanding opportunities within an existing non-profit organization
- Publishing a book.
- Starting a new business.
- Funding a non-profit or community outreach branch of an established business to support low-income families.
- Covering living expenses while participating in mandatory unpaid internships or certifications.
- Supporting tuition and expenses for advanced degrees.
- Funding study abroad opportunities.
- Conducting research projects.
- Attending conferences.
- Covering certification or licensing expenses.
- Providing tuition support for international students.
- Starting a community outreach club or organization.



We welcome all creative and well-thought-out dreams for this category.

Q: What type of documents/receipts do I need to submit for the Dream Support Grant?

A: The required documents and receipts depend on the specific dream you are seeking financial support for. Examples of acceptable documentation include:

- Receipts or invoices for tuition, education, or business expenses you have already incurred.
- Vendor costs or equipment expenses you have paid for.
- Invoices for anticipated expenses.
- Outlines from websites or vendors showing anticipated costs associated with your dream.

Any documentation that proves the validity of the expenses, demonstrates your investment in this dream and supports the amount you are requesting will strengthen the quality and legitimacy of your application.

Q: I'd like to apply for the Online Member Scholarship, but how do I know if I'm a member of an online chapter?

A: A good rule of thumb is if you completed your [Steps to Induction](#) in person, on campus, you're more than likely a member of one of our standard chapters.

If you completed your Steps to Induction online through our NSLS website, you're more than likely a member of an online chapter.

Please check with our member experience team at support@nsls.org if you are unsure if your chapter is considered an "online chapter."

Q: I'd like to apply for the New Member Scholarship. How can I check my "join date" to see if I'm within my first year of membership and eligible to apply?

A: To view your join date, you must log into the NSLS website on a web browser. You will not be able to see this using the NSLS app.

1. Login to your member's area
2. In the top right-hand corner, click on the drop-down where your name is listed.
3. Click on "My Account."
4. Under your member profile picture, you'll find your join date listed below your chapter name.



Stephen Covey Tribute Award Questions

Q: When are applications accepted for Stephen Covey Tribute Awards?

A: Stephen Covey Tribute Awards, which include our Chapter of the Year, Advisor of the Year, and Executive Board Member of the Year awards, are only accepted during our Spring scholarship term. Dates for these terms can be found towards the beginning of this document. Applications for these awards must be submitted to awards@nsls.org. Please review each scholarship description carefully for further details.

Q: I would like to nominate my advisor for Advisor of the Year. Can I do that?

A: The Advisor of the Year award is a “self-apply” award, meaning chapter advisors must now submit an application and essay themselves. However, these applications do require a letter of recommendation from an Executive Board member. We recommend encouraging your advisor to apply and offering to write a letter of recommendation to support their application.

Q: I am an advisor and would like to nominate one of my E-Board members for "Executive Board Member of the Year." Can I do that?

A: The Executive Board Member of the Year award is a self-apply award, meaning executive board members must submit an application for this award themselves. However, their applications require a letter of recommendation from their chapter advisor. We recommend encouraging the executive board member you would like to nominate to apply for the award and offering to write their letter of recommendation to support their application.

Chapter-Specific Scholarships

Q: Are there any scholarships specific to my chapter available?

A: A very small number of our chapters offer chapter-specific scholarships in addition to the general NSLS scholarships available to all members. If your chapter does offer chapter-specific scholarships, you will receive separate emails and announcements from the NSLS and your chapter leaders with details and deadlines. The application timeframes and criteria for these can vary and do not necessarily fall in line with our Fall and Spring application periods. For specific information, please keep an eye out for communication from the NSLS and/or your chapter leaders throughout the year. You



are also welcome to contact your chapter advisor to see if your chapter offers any chapter-specific scholarships.

Q: I am a Capella student and applied for the Capella Online Member Scholarship. Can I also apply for the NSLS online member scholarship?

A: Yes, you are welcome to apply for both scholarships IF you have not already won the Capella online member scholarship or the NSLS online member scholarship that season. You cannot win both in the same scholarship period.

Q: If I win a chapter-specific scholarship, does that disqualify me from potentially winning an NSLS general scholarship that same season?

A: Winning a chapter-specific scholarship will not exclude you from being able to apply for and potentially win an NSLS Fall or Spring general scholarship within the same scholarship year.

Award Winners

Please review the beginning of this packet for answers to the following questions:

- How do I know if I have won, and what next steps should I expect?
- How and When Can I Expect to Receive My Scholarship Payment?

Q: If I win, is the money awarded to me or my school?

A: Our Academic Excellence Award is the only general scholarship paid directly to your school to be put towards your tuition. All other general scholarships are paid to you personally via direct deposit. An NSLS representative will reach out to you once winners have been announced with next steps to process your scholarship payment.

Chapter-specific scholarship payments can vary. If your NSLS chapter offers a chapter-specific scholarship you will receive separate details on this via email.

Q: Can I put someone else's name on the W-9 or W8-BEN?

A: No, as the scholarship applicant and recipient you must enter your details on your W9/W8-BEN.

**Q: What is the process for obtaining payment for an international student who wins a scholarship?**

A: Non-U.S. citizens who permanently reside in the United States are required to provide their Social Security Number to complete a W-9 form to receive the monetary award. International students who reside outside the U.S. may apply as well but do not need a Social Security Number. Instead, you will be asked for a FTIN number (Foreign Tax Identifying Number). International students who receive awards will be provided a W8-BEN form to complete instead of a W9. Once this paperwork is complete, you will be contacted by our billing department to process your direct deposit for your scholarship. We are unable to issue checks to international students at this time.

Please consult with a tax professional and/or the international department at your university for further assistance if you have questions about your eligibility or W9/W8-BEN paperwork completion.

Scholarships awarded directly to a University towards a member's tuition do not require a W9/W8-BEN form (Academic Excellence Scholarship).

Q: Do students pay taxes on their scholarships and awards?

A: Your scholarship may be considered taxable income. A year end 1099 tax form will be issued to anyone that receives a total scholarship of \$600 or more in the calendar year. This excludes scholarships that are paid directly from the NSLS to your university towards tuition (Academic Excellence Scholarship). Please review these IRS guidelines for more information: <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc421>.

You are encouraged to speak with a tax professional if you have further questions on this matter.

Q: Can you mail Certificate of Accomplishments to international students?

A: Yes, however, they may take longer to arrive in the mail. If you are chosen as the recipient of an award you will be contacted by an NSLS recipient at that time. Please let them know that your certificate needs to be mailed to an international address.



Scholar's App Questions

Q: Why does the NSLS use a third-party (Scholar's App) website for scholarship applications? Is this legitimate?

A: Scholar's App is a professional organization the NSLS has partnered with to assist with our scholarships and awards program. They are specifically equipped to process the large volume of scholarship applications the NSLS receives each season and allow us to provide our members with a more efficient scholarship application experience. As an added bonus, they offer additional scholarships outside of the NSLS options that our members are welcome to browse through and apply for if eligible. If you have any questions related to scholarships on Scholar's App that are not NSLS scholarships, please contact Scholar's App directly at hello@scholarsapp.com.

Q: Do I need to create a new account with Scholar's App each scholarship season?

A: Once you have signed up and created an account with Scholar's App, you can use the same account for every scholarship season/cycle. You do not have to create new accounts each time.

Q: Technical issues/I'm having trouble with the Scholar's App website/uploading my scholarship application.

A: Please contact the Scholar's App Team directly for help troubleshooting any technical problems related to the portal at hello@scholarsapp.com.

Q: I am an international/non-US citizen having trouble creating an account on Scholar's App.

A: At this time, in order to create an account with Scholar's App you do need to enter a US address. If you do not have a current U.S. address, I would suggest using your school's address. However, when you go to apply for a scholarship, you CAN enter your international address within your actual scholarship application.

Also, please note, that if you are chosen as a scholarship winner, a representative from the NSLS will reach out with paperwork for you to complete for payment and tax purposes. At that time, you can also enter your international address.



Who to contact with scholarships and awards questions

Issue	Who to contact	How to contact
I'm having trouble creating or editing my Scholar's App profile	Scholar's App Support	hello@scholarsapp.com
I'm having trouble uploading documents to my application	Scholar's App Support	hello@scholarsapp.com
I'm having trouble sending an email to request a letter of recommendation	Scholar's App Support	hello@scholarsapp.com
My recommender is not receiving the email request to provide a letter of recommendation.	Answered in FAQ's above. For further assistance, contact Scholar's App Support	hello@scholarsapp.com
I have questions about other scholarships on Scholar's App that are not through the NSLS	Scholar's App support	hello@scholarsapp.com
I'm having trouble submitting my application	For Stephen Covey Awards (Chapter of the Year, Advisor of the Year & Executive Board Member of the Year Awards), contact NSLS support.	awards@nsls.org
	For all other scholarships and awards - contact Scholar's App support	hello@scholarsapp.com
I have questions about the criteria for an award/I'm not sure if I'm eligible	Please review our FAQs first, and then contact NSLS support if you still have questions	awards@nsls.org



I am an award winner and have questions about the payment process	Please review our FAQs first and then contact NSLS support if you still have questions	awards@nsls.org
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For additional information, please see our blog titled [The Most Common Scholarship Questions We Get Asked at The NSLS](#).