



First Tee College Scholarship Program

2026 APPLICATION

Application Open: January 7th, 2026

Application Deadline: **March 11th, 2026**

OVERVIEW

The First Tee College Scholarship Program provides valuable, life-changing opportunities for the youth of First Tee. Helping them prepare for success is at the core of our mission. We believe in encouraging youth to pursue their dreams and further their education.

This program awards participants who excel in academics, leadership, character development, and chapter and community involvement. Thanks to our generous donors, First Tee is proud to offer up to a \$20,000 scholarship, mentoring throughout the college experience, professional development workshops and assistance in securing internships through the First Tee College Scholarship Program.

WHAT IS A FIRST TEE SCHOLAR?

First Tee Scholars are purpose-driven leaders who embody our core values, excel academically, and are committed to using their education and character to create positive impact in their communities and beyond.

The 5 Key Traits of a First Tee Scholar:

1. CHARACTER-DRIVEN – Lives and applies First Tee's Key Commitments (Pursuing Goals, Growing through Challenge, Collaborating with Others, Building Positive Self-Identity, Using Good Judgment) both on and off the course
2. ACADEMICALLY COMMITTED – Demonstrates excellence through challenging coursework, consistent improvement, and clear educational goals that align with their future vision
3. SERVICE-MINDED LEADER – Takes initiative to create positive change through volunteer work, mentoring, and giving back to their First Tee chapter and broader community
4. RESILIENT & GROWTH-ORIENTED – Has overcome obstacles and learned from challenges, actively seeking guidance and opportunities for personal development
5. FUTURE-FOCUSED – Articulates clear goals for making a positive impact through their career and demonstrates genuine gratitude with a commitment to "pay it forward"

As you complete this application, reflect on how you embody these traits and provide specific examples that demonstrate your alignment with what it means to be a First Tee Scholar.

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

Applications are accepted once per year from seniors in high school who meet the minimum eligibility requirements. All components of the application will be reviewed with consideration that this program offers need and merit-based scholarships.

Following the closing date of March 11th, 2026, a judging committee made up of Headquarters staff, chapter staff, and an outside representative will review the submissions and identify candidates that will be selected for the First Tee College Scholarship Program 2026 class. The field will be announced by June 2nd, 2026.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the First Tee College Scholarship Program, applicants must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- Must be classified as a high school senior as of December 31, 2025
- Minimum 3.3 GPA on a 4.0 grading scale
- Test-Optional
- Intent to attend a four-year accredited college or university in Fall 2026
- If selected, the participant must be able to attend the Pre-College Retreat July 27th – 31st, 2026 and the Winter Workshop January 15th – 18th 2027.
- Registered and active in First Tee headquarters database at the time of application deadline
- Involved in chapter activities at the time of application submission
 - Participants who have spent a longer amount of time in First Tee programs will receive higher consideration in the selection
- Evidence of responsible volunteerism or citizenship through meaningful involvement in community and/or civic activities

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be submitted online at:

<https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/FirstTeeCollegeScholarship2026>

Please follow the instructions in the "Quick Start Guide" on how to complete this process.

The online application will consist of the following:

- Application Code: **SCHOLAR2026** (ALL CAPS)
- Let's Get to Know You!
- High School Information
- ACT/SAT Test Scores (Optional)
- College Information
- Financial Information
- Extracurricular & School Activities
- Community & Volunteer Service
- Awards & Recognition
- Employment Experience
- Short Answer Essays
- Video Essay
- Official High School Transcripts and Test Scores (if applicable)
- Document Uploads
 - Statement Letter (Tell us Why?)
 - One Letter of Recommendation (Required)
 - Creative Work (Optional)
 - High School Transcripts (Required)

- College Financial Aid award letters (if available)
- Chapter Recommendation Form completed by First Tee Chapter Staff
- First Tee College Scholarship Program Statement of Understanding

QUESTIONS

For questions regarding the First Tee College Scholarship Program please contact:

Robbie Lowman

Email: robbielowman@firsttee.org

Phone: 904-940-4280

IMPORTANT NOTES

Below is a copy of the application you will need to complete online. Please refer to this document to make sure that you have all of the information you need to complete your application online.

- Online applications **MUST** be submitted by the First Tee participant
- First Tee will **NOT** accept correspondence from families of participants
- The deadline to apply online is March 11, 2026
- All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required

SECTION 1: LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU! (REQUIRED)

Participant Name (First and Last)*:			
Participant E-Mail*:		Participant Cell #*:	
Current Home Address*:			
City*:	State*:	ZIP Code*:	
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)*:		Age as of January 1, 2026*:	
School Grade Level as of December 31, 2025*: <input type="checkbox"/> High School Senior			
Gender*: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> The options listed do not reflect me		Ethnic Background*: <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino/a <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial	
Are you a First-Generation College Student?* <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Please select your First Tee Chapter*:		How many years have you been with First Tee*:	
Chapter Contact Name*:		Chapter Contact Email*:	
Have you participated in any national First Tee participant opportunity events? Please list all:			
Are you an Ace Level participant within First Tee Programming?* <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Please select your shirt size*:		Men's, Women's, Unisex: XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL	
Parent/Guardian #1 Full Name*:		Parent/Guardian #2 Full Name:	
Parent/Guardian #1 E-Mail*:		Parent/Guardian #2 E-Mail	
Parent/Guardian #1 Cell #*:		Parent/Guardian #2 Cell #:	

SECTION 2: HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION (REQUIRED)

Name of current High School*			
Please select the type of school*: <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool			
Anticipated Graduation Date*:	Class Rank:	Class Rank out of:	
Grade Point Average*:		<input type="checkbox"/> Unweighted <input type="checkbox"/> Weighted	

GPA Scale*: 4.0 5.0 6.0 100-point Other

Note: We will standardize all GPA's during the review process.

Please list any Honors (H), IB, Advanced Placement (AP) and/or Dual Enrollment classes you have and are currently taking*:

Please provide your high school's profile here. This profile is typically an overview of the high school and lists how many AP/Honors classes are offered*:

SECTION 3: ACT/SAT TEST SCORES (OPTIONAL)

List the highest scores for each section of the SAT tests you have taken. For the 2026 application, Test scores will be **OPTIONAL**

SAT | Math:

SAT | Evidence-Based Reading & Writing:

Date SAT Taken:

**Document Upload: Please upload your official test score results here (if available)*

SECTION 4: COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY INFORMATION (REQUIRED)

List any colleges to which you have applied and been accepted*:

If you have already decided, please list the college you plan to attend:

What do you plan to Major in*:

Are you planning to major in a STEM-related field?*

Yes No

Do you plan to play on your college golf team? If yes, have you received a college golf scholarship?

Please select the college scholarships you expect to apply for and receive*:

- Athletic full
- Athletic partial
- Merit
- Local community
- National
- None

SECTION 5: APPLICANT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION (REQUIRED)

Please update this section with the appropriate information if you have completed your FAFSA. If you do not have your FAFSA results, please complete the Federal Aid Estimator at this link:

<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/> and update this section with the information provided. (Estimated time to complete estimator is only 5-10 minutes)

This information is only for internal purposes and will not be reviewed by an outside judging process.

Please add your Student Aid Index (SAI Figure): \$

Please add your family's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for the 2024 tax year: \$
Number of people in your Household:
Number of people in College for the 2025-2026 Academic year:
<i>*Document Upload: Please upload the full copy of your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)</i>
Please describe your family's financial circumstances, including any impediments to paying for college not reflected on the FAFSA or CSS profile (such as the number of siblings in college, loss of employment, hardships, etc.):*

SECTION 6: SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHART

Please complete the charts below. The ability to add multiple line items for each section is available when completing this section online.

INSTRUCTIONS: When describing your activities, include specific details such as:

- What leadership role did you play? (organized, led, created, coordinated)
- How many people did you serve, mentor, or impact?
- What measurable outcomes resulted from your work?
- What did you create, improve, or innovate?
- What skills did you develop or apply?

EXAMPLE: Instead of "Tutored students in math," write "Tutored 8 elementary students weekly in math; 6 improved grades by a full letter grade; created visual study guides now used by tutoring program."

A. EXTRACURRICULAR & SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (REQUIRED)*

List your most significant school activities. For each, include specific leadership roles, accomplishments, and impact.

Activity Name	Dates	Your Role & Key Accomplishments
<i>Key Club</i>	<i>2023-2025</i>	<i>VP of Service (2024-25): Coordinated 5 service projects engaging 200+ students; led holiday toy drive collecting 300+ gifts; increased active membership 30%</i>

B. COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER SERVICE (REQUIRED)*

List your most significant community service and volunteer activities.

Activity/Organization	Dates	Your Role, Impact & What You Learned	Total Hours

<i>First Tee Junior Mentor</i>	<i>2024-2025</i>	<i>Led small group instruction for 12 participants ages 8-10; created practice games they still use; 10 of 12 advanced to next level; learned patience and how to adapt teaching</i>	<i>45</i>

Please estimate the total number of volunteer or service hours completed in 2025*: _____ Hours

C. AWARDS & RECOGNITION (REQUIRED)*

List significant awards, honors, and recognition you have received.

Award/Recognition	Date	Description & Significance

D. WORK FOR PAY (REQUIRED)*

List your employment experience, if any.

Employer/Position	Dates	Responsibilities & Accomplishments	Hours/week
<i>Retail Associate, Target</i>	<i>Summer 2024</i>	<i>Cashier and floor sales; consistently exceeded sales goals by 15%; trained 2 new employees; learned conflict resolution</i>	<i>25</i>

Check here if you have not had paid employment

SECTION 7: SHORT ANSWER ESSAYS (REQUIRED)*

Answer ALL of the following questions. Please use the space provided. Your response must not exceed the word limit for each question. These essays help us understand how you embody First Tee Scholar traits through specific experiences and your vision for creating impact.

Strong responses include specific details, show genuine reflection, and connect to First Tee values where applicable.

ESSAY 1: CHARACTER IN ACTION (300 words maximum)*

Scholar Traits Assessed: Character-Driven, Using Good Judgment

Describe a situation where you had to make a difficult ethical decision or take a stand for what you

believed was right, even when it was challenging or unpopular. What First Tee values guided your decision? What was the outcome, and what did you learn?

ESSAY 2: ACADEMIC JOURNEY & GROWTH (300 words maximum)*

Scholar Traits Assessed: Academically Committed, Resilient & Growth-Oriented

First Tee teaches us to grow through challenge both on and off the course. Describe an academic challenge you've faced and how you grew through it. What did you learn about yourself as a learner? How do you apply First Tee values to your academic life?

ESSAY 3: PURPOSE, IMPACT & FUTURE VISION (300 words maximum)*

Scholar Traits Assessed: Service-Minded Leader, Future-Focused

First Tee Scholars are purpose-driven leaders committed to creating positive impact. Describe a need or problem you've observed in your community that you care deeply about. How have you already taken action (or plan to take action) to address it? Looking ahead, how do you envision your education and career allowing you to create even greater impact in this area or others you're passionate about?

SECTION 8: VIDEO ESSAY (REQUIRED)*

We want to see the real you. In two minutes or less, show us a day in your life as a First Tee participant and community member. This could be:

- Footage or photos from your First Tee chapter activities, volunteer work, or leadership
- Narration about what First Tee means to your daily life
- How you balance school, work, First Tee, service and other commitments
- The people, places and experiences that has shaped your First Tee journey

Be authentic, be creative, be yourself. We're not looking for polish—we're looking for personality and character.

Please upload your video in the application, in one of the following file formats below OR add a link to your video*:

Accepted File Formats:

- Audio Video Interleaved (.AVI)
- QuickTime (.mov)
- MPEG (.mpg, .mpeg, .mp4)
- Windows Media Video (.wmv)
- Flash Video (.flv, .f4v)

SECTION 9: CHAPTER RECOMMENDATION FORM (REQUIRED)*

IMPORTANT: Your First Tee chapter representative (coach, program director, or executive director) must complete the official First Tee Scholar Recommendation Form for your application to be considered complete.

This comprehensive form replaces both a traditional letter of recommendation AND the Chapter Participation Survey from previous years. The form assesses your character, leadership, service impact, and embodiment of the 5 First Tee Scholar traits.

It is YOUR responsibility to:

- Request that your chapter representative complete this form
- Provide them with the form and deadline information
- Ensure the completed form is submitted by the application deadline

Your chapter representative information:

Chapter Representative Name*

Chapter Representative Position*:

Chapter Representative Email*:

Relationship*:

Message to Recommender*:

Example message: *"Thank you for completing my Chapter Recommendation Form for the First Tee scholarship! This form takes 10-15 minutes, can be saved and resumed anytime, and is due March 11, 2026. Please check your spam/junk folder if you don't see the Kaleidoscope email, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I really appreciate your support!"*

UPLOAD SECTION OF APPLICATION

SECTION 10: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION Upload (REQUIRED)*

Upload ONE letter of recommendation from someone who can speak to your character, leadership, and potential. This should be from someone outside of First Tee, such as:

- Teacher
- School counselor
- Coach (non-First Tee)
- Employer
- Community mentor
- Religious/spiritual leader

The letter should address:

- How they know you and for how long
- Your character and integrity
- Your leadership abilities and impact on others
- An example of your resilience or growth through challenge
- Your potential for creating positive impact in the future

Letters should be 1-2 pages and uploaded in the Upload section of the application.

SECTION 11: CREATIVE UPLOAD (OPTIONAL)

If you have any pieces of work you want to share digitally, please upload your work here. Examples include:

- Art
- Photography
- Cinema/video projects
- Creative writing
- Other creative pieces

SECTION 12: HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT UPLOAD (REQUIRED)*

Please upload:

- Your official high school transcript* (If official is unavailable, please upload unofficial)
- Copies of your official test scores (if applicable) – download from test service website

SECTION 13: TELL US WHY? (REQUIRED)*

In 500 words or less, explain why you should be selected as a First Tee Scholar.

In your response, reflect on:

- How you embody First Tee's 5 Scholar traits (Character-Driven, Academically Committed, Service-Minded Leader, Resilient & Growth-Oriented, Future-Focused) with specific examples
- Your academic journey, goals, and commitment to education
- Your leadership and service impact in your chapter and community
- What First Tee has meant to your development
- How you plan to "pay it forward" and contribute to First Tee's mission in the future

This is your opportunity to make a comprehensive case for why you are a First Tee Scholar. Connect your experiences, values, and aspirations to demonstrate your alignment with the program.

Acceptable Upload Files: .docx, doc or .pdf

SECTION 14: SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT

First Tee Social Media Code of Conduct requires participants to demonstrate the First Tee values in their everyday lives and, in particular, to show respect for oneself, others and your surroundings. This is expected not only in face-to-face situations but also in written correspondence and electronic social media interactions. We consider social media to include all personal websites and all forms of online community activities such as online blogs, social networks, message boards, conversation pages, chat rooms, emails and cell phone texting.

First Tee Social Media Code of Conduct states that while using any social media platform to communicate with other Chapter participants or with anyone about First Tee, you must abide by the First Tee Code of Conduct and the First Tee values. If you are unaware of what the Code of Conduct states, you can review with your chapter, or contact First Tee HQ. Also, the First Tee's copyrighted words, logos and trademarks may not be used in any manner on social media pages without headquarters approval. For example, you cannot create a social media group that appears to be sponsored by First Tee.

It is very important to respect and follow the rules set forth when using any social media platform. If you fail to do so, there will be consequences which may include cancellation of benefits and being prohibited from participating in future participant events hosted by First Tee HQ. Headquarters will also involve parents and Chapter leaders in these discussions as needed. Thank you for your attention to these guidelines.

Examples of Social Media (but not limited to): Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter/X, Blogs, YouTube, Email, Texting

Electronic Signature: In accordance with federal law, the parties may execute this document electronically equaling to the same degree as a handwritten signature by using the following process to create an electronic symbol signifying intent. The party must fill in their name below, and sign in the box where requested below.

Participant Signature Participant Printed Name Date

Parent Signature Parent Printed Name Date

SECTION 15: STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I acknowledge that I am fully aware of and understand the following information:

FIRST TEE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: The First Tee College Scholarship Program offers up to a \$20,000 scholarship, mentoring throughout the college experience, professional development workshops and assistance in securing internships. The funds are paid directly to the college or university of the recipient's choice.

OPPORTUNITIES: All First Tee Scholars are eligible for speaking opportunities, possible internships, and attendance at special events. Scholars are not guaranteed participation in any event. All Scholars will be considered for special opportunities based on the criteria for the event and information submitted.

MAINTAINING A SCHOLARSHIP: Scholars selected for this program must maintain the required level of academic performance set forth by the school they choose to attend. If performance falls below this level, participation in this program may be revoked. Please refer to the individual school's requirements for more information. Scholars must submit a renewal report annually in order to receive funds. Scholars must also attend the professional development workshops provided for this program.

Electronic Signature: In accordance with federal law, the parties may execute this document electronically – equaling to the same degree as a handwritten signature – by using the following process to create an electronic symbol signifying intent. The party must fill in their name and date below, signifying your agreement.

Participant Signature Participant Printed Name Date

Parent Signature Parent Printed Name Date

SECTION 16: APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that if I knowingly have provided false information in an effort to receive financial assistance, my application will be rejected and I will be disqualified from seeking any scholarships through the First Tee College Scholarship Program.

I agree to uphold and abide by the Social Media Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of my participation in the First Tee College Scholarship Program.

I have read and understand all materials for this program. I agree to furnish any additional information requested of me including, but not limited to, academic and/or athletic pictures, updated transcripts and/or official test scores in a timely manner.

Electronic Signature: In accordance with federal law, the parties may execute this document electronically – equaling to the same degree as a handwritten signature – by using the following process to create an electronic symbol signifying intent. The party must fill in their name and date below, signifying your agreement.

Participant Signature Participant Printed Name Date

Parent Signature Parent Printed Name Date

SECTION 17: AI ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Applicants certify that they completed all sections of this scholarship application independently and without the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or technologies. This includes but is not limited to, AI-driven writing, editing, or response-generation software.

By submitting your application, you certify that all responses and materials are your original work and were not created, drafted, or enhanced by AI in any way. Any violation of this policy may result in disqualification from consideration.

Please note that all submitted materials may be subject to review using AI detection software. Any suspicious content identified through this process will be further investigated and may result in disqualification if found to violate this policy.

We value authenticity and personal effort in your submissions, as these reflect your true character, abilities, and potential.

Participant Signature Participant Printed Name Date

Parent Signature Parent Printed Name Date

APPLICATION COMPLETION CHECKLIST

Before submitting, please ensure you have completed:

- Let's Get to Know You section
- High School Information
- College Information
- Financial Information (FAFSA/SAI data)
- Extracurricular & School Activities chart (with detailed descriptions)
- Community & Volunteer Service chart (with impact details)
- Awards & Recognition
- Employment Experience
- All 3 Short Answer Essays (300, 300, 300 words)
- Video Essay (2 minutes maximum)
- Chapter Recommendation Form (submitted by chapter representative)
- One Letter of Recommendation (from non-First Tee recommender)
- Official High School Transcript
- FAFSA Submission Summary
- "Tell Us Why?" Statement (500 words)
- All required signatures and certifications

Optional:

- Creative work upload
- Official test scores (if taken)
- College financial aid award letters

QUESTIONS OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding the First Tee College Scholarship Program, please contact:

Robbie Lowman

Email: robbielowman@firsttee.org

Phone: 904-940-4280

Thank you for your interest in the First Tee College Scholarship Program!

We look forward to learning more about you and how you embody the traits of a First Tee Scholar. Your dedication to character, academics, service, resilience, and future impact is what makes this program extraordinary.

Good luck with your application!

FIRST TEE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Application Deadline: **March 11th, 2026**

Apply online at: <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/FirstTeeCollegeScholarship2026>

Application Code: SCHOLAR2026