



DIAMONDS Scholar Application

Debuting in 2023 in conjunction with the inaugural DIAMONDS storytelling gala, the **DIAMONDS Scholar** program is administered annually by the Founders Commission. Eligible to graduating high school students in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties, DIAMONDS Scholar scholarships are awarded for post-secondary schooling and/or technical training.



To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be 2026 graduating high school students from Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago counties who will be attending post-secondary educational institutions (i.e. college/university, community college, university, technical, trades school) during the 2026-27 school year. For scholarship awardees, Founders Commission will present a check written in the name of each awardee to her/his appropriate post-secondary school account.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

DIAMONDS Scholar consideration will be given to applicants who:

- Are a high school graduating student residing in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago counties
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0/4.0
- Have a demonstrated ability to thrive under pressure while embodying excellence
- Showcase a commitment to volunteerism in the Rockford region
- Submit a completed application by the due date
- Scholarships may endure on annual basis through four years of the winning applicant's post-secondary education if the student (1) maintains a minimum post-secondary grade point average of 2.5/4.0 and (2) completes at least 10 hours of volunteer community service work per semester

2025-26 APPLICATION CYCLE

- September 29, 2025: Applications Open
- January 31, 2026: Applications Due
- February-March 2026: Review Period
- Spring 2026: Scholarship winner(s) finalized
- Spring/Summer 2026: Scholarship Winner(s) Announced/Recognized at DIAMONDS

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DIAMONDS SCHOLAR APPLICATION MATERIALS

To be considered for a DIAMONDS Scholar award, please return all of the following items:

- Responses to the below **Essay Questions**
- Completed **Application Information** below
- A copy of your **Resume**
- Two (2) **Letters of Recommendation** with contact's name, organization, phone number and email address
- **Note:** All information is required for the application to be considered.

APPLICANT ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. How has a commitment to excellence and ingenuity shaped your experience as a student?
2. How have you balanced your individual ability to thrive under pressure within a community/team environment?

Note: *The two responses should total approximately 500 words combined.*

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:

Address:

Email and Phone:

High School and Graduating Year:

Grade Point Average (4.0 Scale):

Extra/Co-curricular Activities:

Community Service/Volunteerism:

Post-High School Institution:

Anticipated Major(s)/Post-Secondary Track:

APPLICATION CONTACT/DEADLINE

Completed application including Applicant Information, Essay Questions answers, Resume and Letters of Recommendation must be **received by January 31, 2026**. No late submissions will be considered.

Email complete materials (PDF/Word files only) to Info@FoundersCommission.org.

Note: *Founders Commission reserves the right to amend and change application and eligibility requirements.*

THANK YOU