**Applications for Elks National Foundation Scholarships Now Open**

Support systems can be hard to gain, especially ones that understand the challenges of transitioning to college. With scholarships from the Elks National Foundation, students receive more than financial aid; they receive an invitation to join a strong, supportive community: the #ElksFamily.

“It’s been great building my #ElksFamily,” says Emma Qiao, a 2025 Top 20 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Clear Lake (Kemah), Texas, Lodge No. 2322. “Even though we all live in different areas, at the end of the day, we’re all Elks scholars, and we can always come back to this community.”

Ranging from $1,000 to $7,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are open to high school seniors who will be pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis, in a United States college or university. Five hundred four-year scholarships will be awarded to the highest-rated applicants in the 2026 competition.

No relation to the Elks is needed to apply for the MVS scholarship, but once someone is an Elks scholar, they are part of the #ElksFamily for life.

“I never realized how beneficial the Elks are, what they do for people, and what their principles are,” says Ricky Lazaro, a 2025 Top 20 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by San Antonio, Texas, Lodge No. 216. “It’s something that I think is really revolutionary, and I plan on being a part of it in the future.”

For Legacy Awards winners, the Elks have always been part of the family. Awarded to children or grandchildren of Elks, this $1,000-per-year scholarship requires recipients to serve with an Elks Lodge three times over the four years they receive the scholarship.

“Receiving a Legacy Award means so much to me and my family,” says Kaylee Kollross, a 2025 Legacy Awards recipient sponsored by Marshfield, Wis., Lodge No. 665. “As the granddaughter of an Elks member, I’ve seen firsthand some of the values the Order stands for—community, charity, integrity, and knowledge—and I am proud to carry those values forward in my own educational journey.”

As they enter the next stages of their life, the class of 2026 Elks scholars will feel a wide range of emotions; with their new #ElksFamily, they will never feel alone.

Applications for the 2026 Most Valuable Student scholarship and Legacy Awards are now open! If you know any high school seniors, encourage them to apply.

*In 2025-26, the Elks National Foundation will award $5 million in college scholarships, ensuring a bright future for our nation’s youth. As important members of the Elks family, Elks scholars receive many social and service opportunities with the Elks and one another. For more information about our scholarship programs and ways Lodges can get involved with Elks scholars, visit* ***elks.org/scholars***.