

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDE

DEADLINE: MARCH 1

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Academic transcripts:** Upload your current official or unofficial transcript.
- Enrollment:** Most NPC scholarships are awarded for use in the fall semester of the year you are applying. List the schools you've applied to.
- Resume:** Update your resume, to include your academic experience, extracurriculars, jobs, volunteer positions, and other skills. ([Click here](#) for more detailed resume tips.)

PERSONAL ESSAY

- Answer the essay prompt directly.** Tailor your statements to match the opportunity. If submitting multiple applications, write distinct essays.
- Make it personal.** Use your essay to tell your story, in the first person. Describe how and why your experiences have inspired you to pursue a career in journalism.
- Don't repeat your resume in your essay.**
- Avoid cliches.** Showcase your writing skills. Steer clear of common tropes in your introduction like "The dictionary defines" or "My name is ... and I'm studying ..."
- Do not use generative AI to draft your essay.** If suspected, applicants will be disqualified.

FINANCIAL NEED

Estimate how you'll fund your education. For example: "I expect to pay for school using 50% student loans, 30% scholarships, and 20% out of pocket."

WORK SAMPLES

- Check for broken links or paywalls.** Inaccessible work samples will be disqualified. The work-around for paywalls is to upload a pdf, Word doc, or screenshot.
- Avoid double bylines.** If your best work includes a collaborative project, describe your role and what elements you contributed to directly in the published work along with the sample.
- Disclose the use of artificial intelligence in your work.** If AI tools were used transparently in the production of your journalistic work samples, include a short description of how you deployed those tools in your work.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- Ask for letters early.**
- Ask your recommenders to tailor their letters.** Share the scholarship details and your resume.
- Ask references who know you and your work well.** Do they know you well enough to write something specific to you? Will they speak to your strengths?
- Do not ask your parents or family** to send a letter of recommendation.
- Send a reminder.** Letters received after the deadline are not considered.