

**2026 National Shooting Sports Foundation Patron Member Scholarship Program**  
**Official Rules**

- 1. Eligibility:** One (1) entry per person. The 2026 National Shooting Sports Foundation Patron Member Scholarship Program is open only to employees (interns and other temporary workers ineligible) presently employed by NSSF patron member companies in good standing and the children, stepchildren, grandchildren and current spouses of such employees. Scholarship applicants must currently be enrolled in, or have been accepted and plan to attend, a college, university or vocational school (or trade school or career college) during the fall 2026 school year at time of entry. Scholarships limited to undergraduate or vocational degree seeking candidates only. NSSF board members as well as the children, stepchildren, grandchildren or current spouses of such board members are ineligible. No purchase necessary to enter or win. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Scholarship program is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and other restrictions established by NSSF. Participation constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules, and any decision by NSSF, which shall be final and binding.
- 2. How to Apply:** Visit [nssf.org/scholarship](http://nssf.org/scholarship) to complete and submit an application consisting of an entry form and an essay on one of the following topics: 1. Since 1937, more than \$31 billion has been distributed through annual apportionments to states for managing wildlife resources — thanks to Pittman-Robertson excise taxes. Explain how the funds are generated, and how the Pittman-Robertson fund has supported wildlife conservation in the U.S. over the years since its implementation. 2. When the Bill of Rights was written, some words like “regulated” had a different meaning than most people think of today when they hear that term. a. What did “regulated” or “well regulated” mean at the time the Bill of Rights was written? b. What other terms in the Bill of Rights are often misinterpreted today because of changes in dialog over the years. 3. What does firearm safety mean to you? Elaborate on safety at the range, out in the field and when a firearm is not in use. 4. Explain how the Second Amendment is part of a broader framework for self-sufficiency (food, water, security) and what is lost when individuals outsource responsibility for their own safety and self-sufficiency.
- 3. Essays must be in English.** Essays must be unpublished, original work written by applicant. Applications must be received by NSSF no later than 5PM (PT) on May 25th, 2026. NSSF reserves the right to disqualify any application submitted not in conformance with these Official Rules.
- 4. Judging:** Essays will be judged by NSSF based on the following criteria: (i) adherence to submission rules (See “How to Apply” above), (ii) adherence to chosen topic, (iii) organization, (iv) originality, (v) research/accuracy, and (vi) style and mechanics (i.e., spelling, grammar, and punctuation; clear, concise writing).
- 5. Prizes:** Twenty applicants with the highest overall essay scores will be selected as scholarship prize winners. One (1) Grand Prize winner with the highest scored essay will receive a scholarship of \$8,000. One (1) First Place Prize winner with the second highest scored essay will receive a scholarship of \$5,000. One (1) Second Place Prize winner with the third highest scored essay will receive a scholarship of \$3,000. The remaining seventeen (17) Runner-Up Prize winners will each receive a scholarship of \$2,000. All scholarships are in US\$ and will be mailed directly to recipients but made payable to their designated college, university or vocational school. Scholarship prize recipients responsible for all federal, state and local taxes and other expenses associated with their prizes, if any. Scholarship prize recipients must provide NSSF with a copy of the W-9 for their designated college, university, or vocational school. No transfer, assignment, cash redemption, or substitution of scholarship prizes except by NSSF who may substitute prizes as necessary. All scholarship prize details are at the sole discretion of NSSF. NSSF reserves the right not to award all prizes if, in its sole discretion, it does not receive a sufficient number of entries or the entries it does receive do not meet the minimum judging criteria.
- 6. Winner Selection and Notification:** Scholarship prize recipients will be notified by email by June 8th, 2026. If a selected recipient is unreachable, fails to claim scholarship award by June 12th, 2026, or is determined ineligible, the recipient will forfeit his/her prize and an alternate recipient will be chosen. Scholarship prize recipients may be required to provide proof of current school enrollment or attendance to claim scholarships (e.g., student ID, report card, acceptance letter, etc.).
- 7. Publicity:** By submitting a scholarship application, each applicant (and, if a minor, his/her parent) grants NSSF permission to reprint, edit, modify and use itself, and to distribute to third parties to reprint, edit, modify and use, applicant's essay together with applicant's name, city and state of residence, likeness and biographical information for advertising and promotional purposes in any and all media regardless of whether applicant receives a scholarship award or not, without further compensation, notification, or permission, and without recourse or liability of any kind.
- 8. General Conditions:** By submitting a scholarship application, each applicant (and, if a minor, his/her parents and/or legal guardians) agrees: (i) to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of NSSF, which shall be final and binding; and (ii) to release, indemnify and hold harmless NSSF, its directors, officers, employees, and other representatives (collectively, “Released Parties”) from any and all claims, losses, or liabilities of any kind (including attorneys' fees and costs) arising from or relating to the administration or operation of the scholarship program or any errors in materials related thereto, applicant's participation in the scholarship program, NSSF's or third party use or distribution of applicant's scholarship application materials, name, city and state of residence, likeness and biographical information, applicant's acceptance or use of a scholarship prize, or any claims based on rights of privacy, rights of publicity, copyright infringement and/or other personal or proprietary right. NSSF reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, suspend, or terminate all or part of the scholarship program at any time, including reducing the number of scholarships awarded, and, in the event of changes, suspension, or termination, to award scholarships based on eligible submissions received prior to any such action, or not award scholarships at all. The Released Parties shall not be responsible or liable for: (i) late, lost, delayed, damaged, misdirected, stolen, incomplete, illegible, unintelligible or postage-due submissions or other correspondence; (ii) telephone, electronic, hardware or software program, network, Internet, or computer malfunctions, failures, interruptions or difficulties of any kind; (iii) failed, incomplete, garbled, or delayed computer transmissions; or (iv) any condition caused by events beyond the control of the Released Parties that may cause the scholarship program to be disrupted or corrupted, including any injury or damage to any person's computer relating to or resulting from participation in the scholarship program or downloading any materials related thereto. NSSF reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual it finds tampering with or disrupting the operation or administration of the scholarship program.
- 8. Winner List:** Announcement of scholarship prize recipients will be posted on NSSF's website after all recipients are notified and accept their awards.