



2027 Counselor Information and Instructions

Scholarship Directory

The CFWNC Scholarship Directory lists all available scholarships and their eligibility criteria: <https://cfwnc.org/students/scholarship-directory>. CFWNC primarily serves the 18-county region of Western North Carolina (Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey and the Qualla Boundary) but some scholarship programs extend beyond those counties. Please read the eligibility for each scholarship for details. To filter scholarships by County or Region eligibility, please use the Filter by Region option on the directory.

Application Deadlines

CFWNC partners with SmarterSelect for managing online scholarships. Applications become available in early November, at which point an application link will be available on each scholarship webpage. Most scholarship applications are due on **January 15, 2027** or **February 26, 2027 at 5 p.m.** **Students must submit their applications online via SmarterSelect by the stated deadline, and deadlines INCLUDE the two required letters of recommendation.** Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

School Resources

Instructions for school counselors, a list of counties and schools served, and a list of application deadlines can be found here: <https://cfwnc.org/students/school-resources-and-scholarship-deadlines>.

Frequently Asked Questions

A list of scholarship FAQs can be found here: <https://cfwnc.org/students/scholarships-faqs>.

Scholarship Contact

Please reach out to Amber Harrelson-Williams, Scholarship Officer, at scholarships@cfwnc.org or 828-367-9916 with any questions regarding scholarships.

Financial Need/FAFSA

For scholarships that consider financial need, students are required to provide financial information on their applications. Students are also strongly encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) within approximately one month of the scholarship application deadline. Students may be asked to provide their FAFSA Submission Summary to document financial need.

School Selection Process and Deadline

Each CFWNC scholarship has a designated selection process, which is detailed in the **Selection Instructions** section below. For scholarships that require a school selection, all qualified applications from each school will be assigned to that school's primary scholarship counselor in the SmarterSelect software and the counselor will receive an email that applications are ready for review (usually in late January). A school committee of at least three people is then required to make the school's selections. Please reference the list below for the number of students that your school may select for each scholarship. The counselor will then submit their school's selections via SmarterSelect. **The deadline for counselors to submit their school's selections is February 12, 2027 at 5 p.m.** Please note that students may apply to or be submitted for more than one scholarship. If you have been assigned the number of

applications that your school can select, please still complete the selections in SmarterSelect. For scholarships that do not require a school selection, no action is required from counselors (scholarships with a deadline of February 26, 2027 do **not** require a school selection).

Recipient Selection

Following application deadlines and school selections (if required by the scholarship) CFWNC committees then review applications in February and March (and conduct interviews in April if required by the scholarship) to select recipients. As each scholarship decision is finalized, CFWNC will notify both recipients and non-recipients via SmarterSelect. **Please do not notify ANY recipients or announce ANY of our scholarships until you have received written confirmation from CFWNC that we have notified the recipients.** CFWNC strives to notify all recipients and non-recipients of scholarship decisions by April 30 at the latest. After all scholarship decisions are made, CFWNC will share a finalized list of recipients with counselors. CFWNC will then publicly announce recipients via our website and press releases. Each recipient will receive 1) a letter in the mail to sign and return to accept the scholarship and 2) an electronic form via email to indicate the college/university they will attend.

Selection Instructions

Below is the selection process for each CFWNC scholarship. **Please remember that for scholarships where school committees select semifinalists, another round of competition will occur to select the recipients.**

Semifinalists are selected by their school's committee (please submit your school's selections in SmarterSelect) and recipients are then selected by CFWNC committees:

- **Asheville Civitan Legacy Scholarship Fund** – Asheville City and Buncombe County public high school seniors. Each school may submit 1 semifinalist.
- **Charles C. and Suzanne R. McKinney Scholarship** – Mitchell High School seniors. Submit up to 8 semifinalists.
- **Chuck D. Hargrove Memorial Scholarship** – Tuscola High School seniors. Submit up to 3 semifinalists.
- **Gene and Lee Meyer Scholarship** – public high school seniors from Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary. Each school may submit up to 2 semifinalists.
- **Harry W. Clarke Memorial Scholarships** – public high school seniors in the western 29 NC counties. Each school may submit 1 semifinalist who will attend a four-year college/university to compete for the Harry W. Clarke Award and 1 semifinalist who will attend a two-year community college to compete for the William A. Hart Award.
- **Irving Jacob Reuter Award** – high school seniors who are residents of Buncombe or Madison county and who attend public schools in Buncombe or Madison county. Each school may submit up to 2 semifinalists. This scholarship program conducts interviews.
- **Marilyn Lester and William Lester Scholarship** – Asheville High School/SILSA seniors. Submit up to 6 semifinalists (3 from AHS and 3 from SILSA).
- **Murice C. Talley Memorial Scholarship** – seniors from Avery County's Crossnore Academy, Burke County's public high schools, and the NC School for the Deaf at Morganton. Each school may submit up to 2 semifinalists.
- **Nathaniel Ellis Cannady, Jr. Scholarship** – public high school seniors in Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford and Yancey counties. Each school may submit 1 semifinalist. This scholarship program conducts interviews.
- **Rotary Club of Asheville Harry R. Morrill Scholarship** – high school seniors who are residents of Buncombe County and attend public or private high schools or homeschooled in Buncombe County. Each school may submit up to 2 semifinalists. This scholarship program conducts interviews.

- **Rotary Club of Asheville - West/John Maggard Memorial Scholarship** – Clyde A. Erwin High School seniors. Submit up to 3 semifinalists.
- **Rotary Club of Asheville - West/Warren Bogue Memorial Scholarship** – Enka High School seniors. Submit up to 3 semifinalists.
- **WNC Regional Scholarships** – public high school seniors in the western 18 NC counties. Each school may submit 1 semifinalist. This scholarship program conducts interviews.
- **Yates L. & Louise D. Holland Scholarship** – Eastern Randolph High School and East Rutherford High School seniors. Each school may submit 1 semifinalist.

Recipients are selected by their school's committee (please submit your school's selections in SmarterSelect) and recipients are then approved by CFWNC:

- **Cal and Carol Peddy Memorial Scholarship for Mountain Air Pilots Association** – Mountain Heritage High School seniors. Submit 1 recipient.
- **Elda C. Penny – Graham County Woman's Club Scholarship** – Robbinsville High School seniors. Submit 1 recipient.
- **Leon C. and Grace E. Luther Scholarship** – Andrews High School seniors. Submit 1 recipient.
- **Mary Helen Clement Scholarship** – Smoky Mountain High School seniors. Submit 2 recipients.
- **Powers Scholarship for Avery County Schools** – Avery County High School seniors. Submit 3 recipients.

Recipients are selected by CFWNC committees (no school committee selection is required):

- **A. Joe Hemphill, Jr. Scholarship** – Charles D. Owen High School, Madison High School, and McDowell High School seniors.
- **Asheville Wilbert Vault Service Scholarship** – residents of the western 18 NC counties who have chosen funeral service as a career path.
- **Asheville Young Woman Leadership Award** – high school junior women who are residents of Buncombe County and attend a public or private school in Buncombe County. *This scholarship program conducts interviews.*
- **Captain John G. Gardner, USMC, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Scholarship** – public and private high school seniors in western 18 NC counties who are relatives of Vietnam Veterans.
- **Celo Health Education Corporation Dr. Elpenor Ohle Scholarship Fund** – eligible employees of Mountain Community Health Partnership.
- **Charlie R. and Charles J. Silver Family Scholarship** – Silver-Line employees and children and grandchildren of Silver-Line employees.
- **Chattooga Club Scholarship** – Chattooga Club employees.
- **Dorothy Peek Scholarship for New Morgan Hill Baptist Church** – children of members of New Morgan Hill Baptist Church (now Lake Hills Church).
- **Dr. Brian Ling Memorial Scholarship** – public and private high school seniors who are residents of Buncombe County and are interested in pursuing higher education in healthcare.
- **Frank and Alan Bruckner Scholarship** – A.C. Reynolds High School seniors.
- **Hans and Gretel Timan Scholarship Fund** – high school seniors (or students who have received their GED) in the western 18 NC counties who plan to study Environmental Studies/related field.
- **Heffington Scholarship** – residents of Cashiers and Highlands communities.
- **Joanna Cornerstone Ministries Scholarship Fund** – high school seniors who are residents of Cherokee, Clay or Graham counties.
- **John Francis Amherst Cecil Scholarship** – dependents of eligible employees of The Biltmore Company.

- **Lynn Brown Slater Memorial Scholarship** – Ashe County High School or Ashe Early College High School seniors. *This scholarship program conducts interviews.*
- **Martha Guy Educational Fund Scholarship** – residents of Avery County.
- **Mary R. Hemphill Scholarship** – high school seniors from public schools in Buncombe, Madison, or McDowell counties who will attend a college or university in North Carolina or Tennessee and pursue a Veterinary or Animal Science degree.
- **Melanie J. Retzke Scholarship Fund** – high school seniors residing in Erwin district of Buncombe County Schools who plan to attend Virginia Tech or Ohio State University.
- **Mike Davis Team Spirit Award** – Freedom High School seniors who are members of the basketball team.
- **North Carolina Epsilon Memorial Scholarship** – in 2027, female seniors from Charles D. Owen High school (Buncombe County high schools rotate each year).
- **R. Walker Geitner III Memorial Scholarship** – Asheville High School/SILSA seniors or graduates who have demonstrated achievement in film, video production, visual, or performing arts.
- **Reichman Scholarship** – Andrews High School seniors. *This scholarship program conducts interviews.*
- **Roger W. Morrison Scholarship** – Pathologist's Medical Laboratory and Mission Hospitals Laboratories employees, spouses of employees, and children of employees.
- **Ruth Paddison Scholarship** – public high school seniors who are residents of Madison County.
- **S. Hayes Robinson Memorial Dance Scholarship** – Buncombe County public or private high school seniors who intend to study and/or participate in performance dance.
- **Transylvania Excellence in Education / Excellence Award** – Transylvania County public high school seniors who have demonstrated excellence in English.
- **Tri-County Healthcare Education Scholarship – Dr. Helen Wells Award** – Andrews High School, Hiawassee Dam High School, and Robbinsville High School seniors who are planning to study a healthcare-related field.
- **Tri-County Healthcare Education Scholarship – Dr. Jeffrey Larson Award** – Tri-County Early College, Murphy High School, and Hayesville High School seniors who are planning to study a healthcare-related field.
- **Walter "Pop" Jarvis Scholarship** – Avery County High School seniors.
- **William Bradley Ayers Memorial Scholarship** – Asheville High School seniors who are members of the band.