



2027 Scholarship Toolkit

“You are the *Light of the World*

...your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:14-16



For questions and other inquiries:



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ccfphx.org/who-we-serve/scholarships

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Important Scholarship Dates

June 1, 2026

Students entering 7th grade can begin tracking service hours for the 8th grade CSA scholarship

July 1, 2026

2027 Scholarship Toolkit available

December 1, 2026

Application opens

January 31, 2027

Application closes

February 2027

Applications evaluated

March 2027

- Students notified of acceptance or denial
- Award info emailed to principals

July 1, 2027

2028 Scholarship Toolkit available

August 7, 2027

2027 Scholarship Award Ceremony
(date subject to change)



About

“You are the light of the world.” - Matthew 5:14



The Catholic Community Foundation's scholarship programs have been established by generous donors who desire to support students as they discover their relationship with Christ and respond to His call in their lives. Each young person has been entrusted with unique gifts, interests, and abilities that are meant to be cultivated and shared so that they can become who the Lord has made them to be and others can encounter His love through them. Catholic education helps provide this space for growth, forming young people in truth, virtue, and faith so they are equipped to respond to the Lord's invitation with courage and carry the light of Christ into their families, workplaces, and communities.

The Foundation's first scholarship program was established in 1998 through a perpetual Memorial Fund created by Reverend Philip J. Poirier. Known as the Christian Service Award Program, it recognizes eighth-grade students, planning to attend Catholic high school, whose lives reflect a commitment to Christ through service to their parish, school, and community. In serving others, these young men and women bear witness to the hope of the Gospel and help illuminate their communities with the love of Christ.

Our newest scholarship program, the Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship, recognizes the commitment of seventh-grade students to their life of discipleship, who desire to attend Catholic high school, and require financial assistance to make that opportunity possible.

These awards, together with our post-secondary scholarships in chemistry, engineering, and social work, reflect the conviction that our young people are the future of our Church and society. These scholarships help open the doors of possibility for students and their families on their faith journey, helping them step into their vocations and truly be “the light of the world.”



Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship

Eligibility

The Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship applicant must currently be in **7th grade** and plan to attend a Catholic school within the Diocese of Phoenix the following school year.

Overview

The Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship Program's mission is to help students and their families make Catholic education more accessible by granting annual tuition assistance throughout their 8th-12th grade school years.

Funding

- Students awarded the scholarship will receive one \$1,000 payment for their 8th grade year, and then an annual \$4,000 payment during each of the 9th-12th grade years in high school for a total of \$17,000.
- Funds will be disbursed directly to the selected Catholic school within the Diocese of Phoenix for as long as the student remains enrolled in that school.
- Scholarship funds are to be applied to tuition only and can be used in conjunction with ESA or STO funds.

Evaluation

Applicants are evaluated in these areas:

- Financial need
- Short essay responses
 - a. From student
 - b. From parent
- Two recommendations:
 - a. School principal or teacher
 - b. Pastor or parish leader



Christian Service Award Scholarship

Eligibility

The applicant must be a student who has demonstrated a *minimum* of 100 hours of community service, must currently be in **8th grade**, and plan to attend four years of Catholic school within the Diocese of Phoenix.

Overview

Since 1998, the mission of the Christian Service Award (CSA) Scholarship is to acknowledge students who demonstrate exemplary Christ-centered behavior through volunteer service to their parish, school, and community. Recipients demonstrate a deep love and understanding of their Catholic faith and articulate a commitment, not only to perform acts of service, but also to live a life focused on service. They recognize their God-given gifts and provide persuasive evidence of their maturity, humility, and leadership.

Funding

- Students awarded the scholarship will receive an annual \$2,000 payment during the 9th-12th grade years for a total of \$8,000.
- Funds will be disbursed directly to the selected Catholic high school within the Diocese of Phoenix for as long as the student remains enrolled.
- Scholarship funds are to be applied to tuition only and can be used in conjunction with ESA or STO funds.

Evaluation

Applicants are evaluated in these areas:

- **Recommendations as specified on the application**
- **Student short essay responses**
- **Service hour documentation****

**All service hours MUST be recorded on the CSA Service Hours Tracking form only. The more variety in service hours across each category of parish, school and community that a student can report, the stronger the application will be.



CSA Qualifying Service Hours

EXAMPLES OF QUALIFYING SERVICE HOURS

PARISH

- Altar Server or Lector (no more than one hour per Mass served)
- Office help (stuffing newsletters, cleaning, picking up trash, maintenance, or painting projects)
- Choir participation***
- Vacation Bible School leader (no overnight hours)
- Babysitting during Mass when you attend a different Mass
- Festival (selling tickets, set up, clean up, host activities)

SCHOOL (BEFORE OR AFTER)

- Helping to set up, tear down, or clean classrooms
- Volunteering in the library
- Student council activities and events***
- Choir performances***
- Tutoring others (before or after school)
- School crossing guard
- Raising/lowering flag
- Starting a service club
- Festival (selling tickets, hosting a game, set up, clean up)

COMMUNITY

- Serving food or boxing food at shelters, pantries, or food banks
- Starting a supply drive (coats, socks, canned food, or school supplies)
- Participate in a service activity (example: knitting prayer shawls, animal rescue, placement services for pets)
- Organizing a group service project
- Write letters and package care boxes to members of the active military (Packages from Home)
- Performances benefiting the elderly, sick, disabled, church, school, or a nonprofit organization***
- Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts (service projects only)
- Volunteering at the public library, other schools, or a community center
- Visiting the elderly at assisted living facilities
- Volunteering for charity runs or walks

***EXAMPLES OF NON- QUALIFYING SERVICE HOURS

- Meetings
- Travel time
- Rehearsals and practices
- Scouting outings do not count unless it is a group service project
- Fundraising proceeds benefitting applicant, applicant's family, or for-profit organization
- Participating in races or walks
- Babysitting friends, family members, or pets



CSA Service Hours Tracking

The Christian Service Award requires students to complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service. The more variety in service hours across each category of parish, school and community that a student can report, the stronger their application will be.

Eligibility

Qualifying service hours may be completed between June 1, before the start of the student's 7th-grade year, and January 1 during the student's 8th-grade year.

How To Track

Start tracking early! Download the Excel spreadsheet onto your computer before entering your service hours. For your privacy, do not enter information directly into the online spreadsheet.

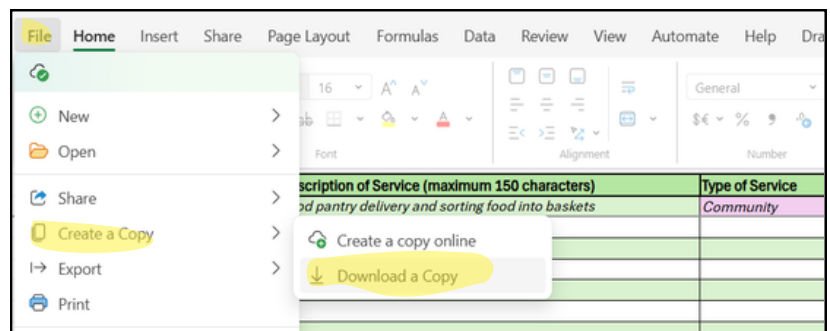
The detailed nature of tracking service hours is why we encourage students to begin recording at the start of their eligibility. You'll need detailed descriptions, including the organization name, description, date, and hours served. It is acceptable to group hours, but please list all dates along with the total number of hours for each day.

How To Download CSA Service Hour Tracking Forms

Visit ccfphx.com/who-we-serve/scholarships.
Click **DOWNLOAD CSA SERVICE HOUR FORM**.

2

Download the spreadsheet.
Select File > Create a Copy > Download a Copy.



3

Track your service hours by filling in the spreadsheet that is saved to your computer. You will later upload the complete document to your application.

[illegible]

Angel Scholarship

Eligibility

The Angel Scholarship for Social Work, Peace, and Justice Studies applicant must be a **full-time senior** attending a Catholic high school within the Diocese of Phoenix, must be a registered practicing Catholic, and must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. The scholarship award is not based on financial need or high school grade point average (GPA).

Overview

The Angel Scholarship for Social Work, Peace, and Justice Studies was created in 2012 by a generous anonymous donor from the Catholic Community Foundation. With a strong commitment to assisting the underserved and disadvantaged, the benefactor hopes this scholarship will inspire young men and women to pursue a life dedicated to serving others through social work.

Funding

- The student awarded the scholarship will receive a one-time \$5,000 award toward freshman-year tuition at a four-year college or university in Arizona.
- The scholarship will be paid directly to the college/university.
- The scholarship does not fund degrees in criminal justice, philosophy, psychology, nursing, or teaching/education.

Evaluation

Applicants are evaluated in two areas:

- **Two on-line recommendations**
- **One student essay** - The topic is specified in the application.



Ralph M. Knight Scholarship

Eligibility

The Ralph M. Knight Chemistry and Engineering Scholarship applicant must be a full-time senior attending a Catholic high school within the Diocese of Phoenix, must be a registered practicing Catholic, and must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. The scholarship award is not based on financial need or high school grade point average (GPA).

Overview

The Ralph M. Knight Chemistry and Engineering Scholarship was established in 2010 by Mrs. Nancy Knight in memory of her husband, Ralph, who was a chemical engineer. The Knight family wishes to honor his legacy and help others contribute to society as he did. Use QR code to read Ralph's story.



Funding

- The student awarded the scholarship will receive a one-time \$5,000 award toward freshman-year tuition at a four-year college or university in the United States.
- The student must declare chemistry or engineering as a major.
- The scholarship will be paid directly to the college/university.

Evaluation

Applicants are evaluated in two areas:

- **Two on-line recommendations**
- **One student essay** - The topic is specified in the application.



Using our scholarship application platform

All applications must be completed through our scholarship platform. Applicants can login here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=ccfphxscholarship>

NEW APPLICANTS

If you are a new user of our scholarship platform, regardless of whether another student in your household has applied in previous years, you will need to create a new account. A unique email must be used for each applicant. Two different applicants cannot share the same email.

When completing the “Applicant Information” section of the account, please use the student’s name, rather than the parent’s name. The application will provide space later to enter parent/guardian information. **For 7th and 8th grade applicants, a parent email address is preferred.**

RETURNING APPLICANTS

If you applied for a scholarship previously, your username and password remain the same. If you cannot remember your password, simply choose the ‘Forgot your Password?’ option underneath the Log On button and follow the prompts.

SELECTING THE RIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

When the applications open on December 1, you will see each of our active scholarships listed on your dashboard, regardless of your eligibility. **Please select and apply for the one pertinent to your grade level/career path:**

- **For current 7th graders only:** Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship
- **For current 8th graders only:** Christian Service Award
- **For high school seniors:**
 - Ralph Knight Scholarship - chemistry/engineering
 - Angel Scholarship - social work

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

It is common for applicants to submit their application before the reference portions are complete. While this does not prohibit the references from completing their portion, it does prevent the applicant from making any further changes. Sometimes this includes choosing a new reference. It is preferred that applicants wait until the references are complete before submitting their application.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

All scholarship email communication will come from administrator@grantinterface.com or scholarships@ccfphx.org. It is advisable to whitelist these addresses or add them to your safe sender list to ensure they are not filtered out of your inbox.



Tips for a Strong Application

The strongest applications help us really get to know who you are. As you complete your application, consider the following:

BE SPECIFIC:

Whenever possible, share real examples rather than general statements.

Instead of saying:

“I really enjoy helping people.”

Provide an example:

“I spent a Saturday morning volunteering at my parish’s festival celebration. Seeing all the families and kids have a great time, and being able to play a part by serving popcorn, helped me feel like I was part of something bigger than myself. I also got to meet other volunteers and was inspired by how happy they were to be there.”

USE YOUR OWN VOICE

The strongest essays sound genuine and personal, with honest reflection. Refrain from using AI tools to enhance or refine your responses. Evaluators are adept at identifying AI generated content. That being said, parental assistance with grammar or spelling through proofreading is perfectly acceptable.

THOUGHTFUL RESPONSES MATTER

Don’t treat the application as a checklist and rush through it. A one sentence answer generally does not provide the evaluators with enough information to understand your story. Take time to reflect and provide thoughtful, specific responses. However, avoid adding extra words or repeating the same point just to fill space.

Prior to submitting your application, review each question carefully to confirm that your response fully addresses what is being asked and that no part of the question has been left unanswered.



Tips for a Strong Application (cont.)

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SEND YOUR REFERENCE REQUESTS

The application cycle takes place over months that are busy with holiday activities and vacations. Even if you are not immediately ready to fill out every response on the application, send your reference requests (which are done through the application itself) *early*. If references have little time before the deadline, they may not have the space to share as much as they'd like about what makes you a great candidate. It's also good practice to let them know ahead of time that you will be sending the request so they can keep an eye out for it in their inbox.

You should also choose references who know you. If they don't, it may be helpful to schedule a time to meet with them to share about yourself.

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT...

Ask yourself "Would someone who reads my application, who has never met me, understand what's important to me, what my values are, and how my faith makes a difference in my life?"

A PRAYER FOR YOU

**"You are the
Light of the World"**



COME HOLY SPIRIT,

Illuminate the hearts of Your young people with the flame of Your love, inspiring them to live generously and in the abundance of joy found in relationship with Jesus Christ. May Your divine light radiate forth from the witness of their lives and reveal to their friends, families, and communities, the depth of the Father's great love and mercy. We ask this through the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our patron saint.

Amen.

