

2026 Scholarship Toolkit



For questions and other inquiries:

 **480-651-8806**

 **scholarships@ccfphx.org**

 **ccfphx.org/who-we-serve/scholarships**



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About

The first scholarship program, established in 1998 through a perpetual Memorial Fund by Reverend Philip J. Poirier with the Catholic Community Foundation, is called the Christian Service Award Program. This program aims to recognize Catholic 8th-grade students for their Christ-centered behavior as evidenced through their volunteer service to the parish, school, and community.

Our newest scholarship program, the Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship, awards \$17,000 to 7th-grade students who plan to attend Catholic high school and require financial assistance to make their dream a reality. This award, along with other post-secondary scholarships for chemistry, engineering, and social work, were created by loving donors who value education and want to make it accessible to all.



Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship

Eligibility

The Catholic Community Foundation Scholarship applicant must 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 | • Two recommendations: |
| • Two essays: | 1. School principal or teacher |
| 1. From student | 2. Pastor or parish leader |
| 2. From parent | |



Christian Service Award Scholarship

Eligibility

The applicant must be a student who has demonstrated a **minimum** of 100 hours of community service, must 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:

- **Two recommendations**
 1. Pastor, parish leader, or religion teacher
 2. A leader from the organization where the student served
- **Student essay**
- **Service hour documentation***

*All service hours MUST be recorded on the CSA Service Hours Tracking form only. The more variety of services a student has done, 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 org.
- Participating in races or walks
- Babysitting friends or family members



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 a student can report, the stronger their application will be.

Eligibility

Qualifying service hours must 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 Forms

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




Click to open one file in Dropbox.

×

CSA Service Hours Record Tracking 1

XLSX • 15.06 KB | File info

3



Open in

▼

Save as...

▼

Download

Applicant Name:	
Name of Organization	Description of Service (maximum 1000 characters)
EXAMPLE: St. Vincent de Paul	

Click to download onto your computer. This is the only form that may be used to track service hours.

[illegible]

Track your service hours by filling in the spreadsheet that is saved to your computer.

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 either 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 applicants must be **full-time seniors** attending a Catholic high school within the Diocese of Phoenix, must be registered practicing Catholics, and must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. 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.



Important Scholarship Dates



July 1, 2025

2026 Scholarship Toolkit available

December 1, 2025

Application opens

January 31, 2026

Application closes

February 2026

Applications evaluated

March 2026

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

July 1, 2026

2027 Scholarship Toolkit available

August 1, 2026

2026 Scholarship Award Ceremony
(date subject to change)

