Scholarship Information Session

Scholarship Season 2026

Applications Open: December 1, 2025-February 14, 2026
Reviews will be completed by April 15, 2026
Annual Meeting at Shelly Ridge: May 2, 2026

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Agenda

1. Where to find our scholarships
2. Creating a SmarterSelect account
3. Starting the Common App
4. References
5. Scholarships versus Awards
6. Reading through the Scholarships
7. Tips to keep you on track
8. Important Dates

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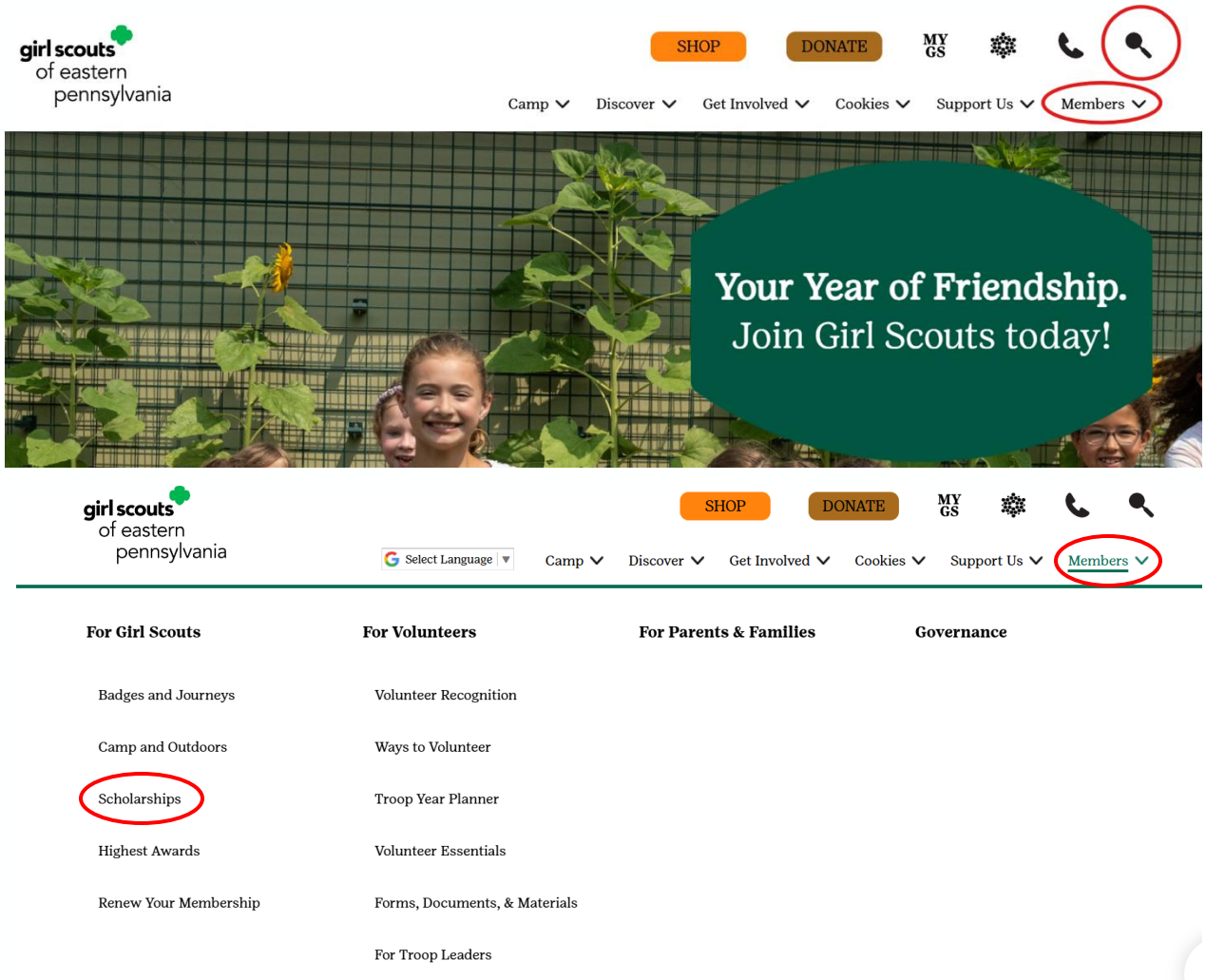
How to find the Scholarships Page at GSEP.org

- Search “Scholarships” Click the “Scholarships” link

OR

- Go to “Members” then Go to “Scholarships”



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Read through the instructions section before beginning

Create your Common App by clicking the link

*Anything **Green** and underlined is a link

Instructions

1. Read the **Scholarship Application Instructions** to help get you started on the submission process.
2. Create a username and password. Be sure to save this information for future use! With your account, you will be able to edit and view all your scholarship applications in one place.
3. Complete the **Scholarship Common Application**. **This application is required to be considered for any scholarship.**
4. Scholarship applications and references must be submitted by February 14, 2026.
5. You will hear from the scholarship committee regarding the status of your application at the beginning of April.
6. All scholarship recipients will be invited to be recognized at the GSEP Annual Meeting held in the spring.

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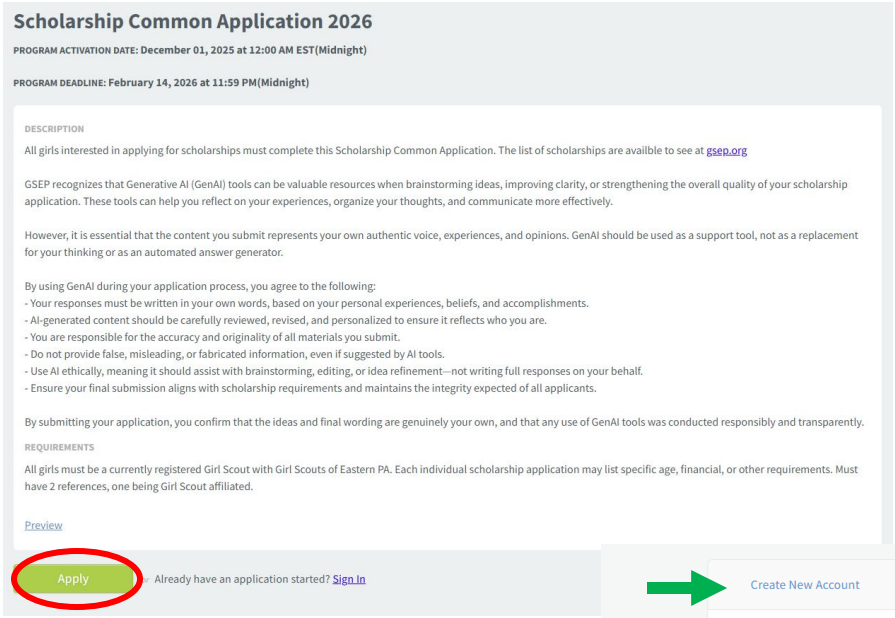
Start by creating your common application

*This is required to be qualified for all scholarships

If you do not already have an account: Create a New Account

*Remember to save your login information



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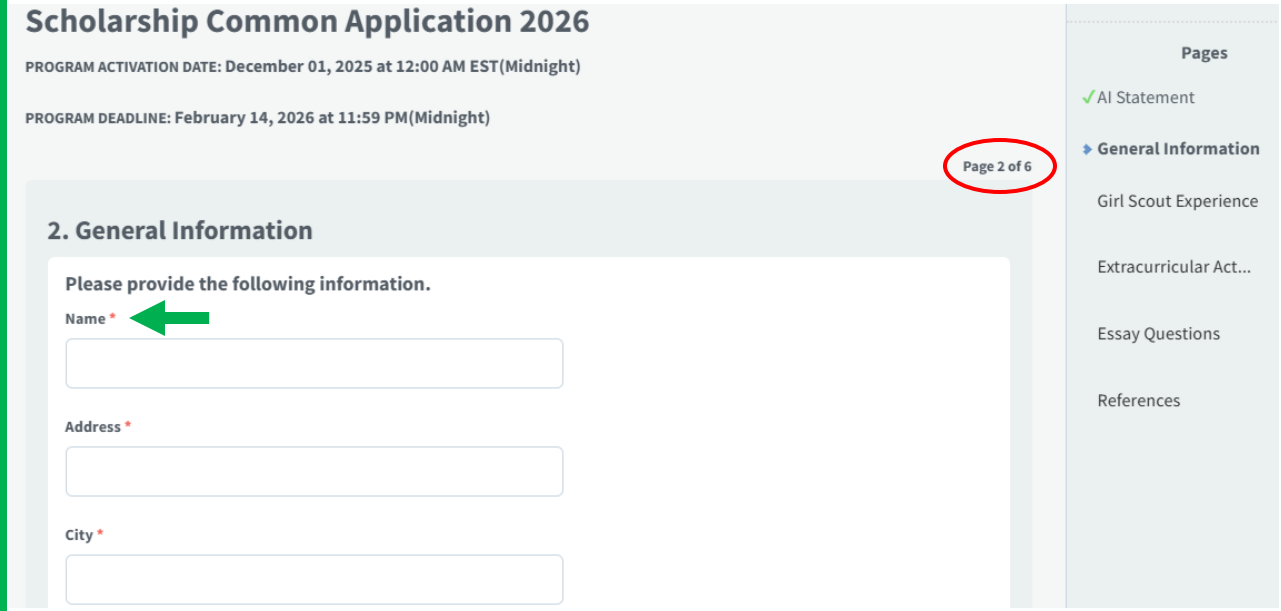
Things to note when you open the Common App:

- 6 pages to the App
- Red * means Required



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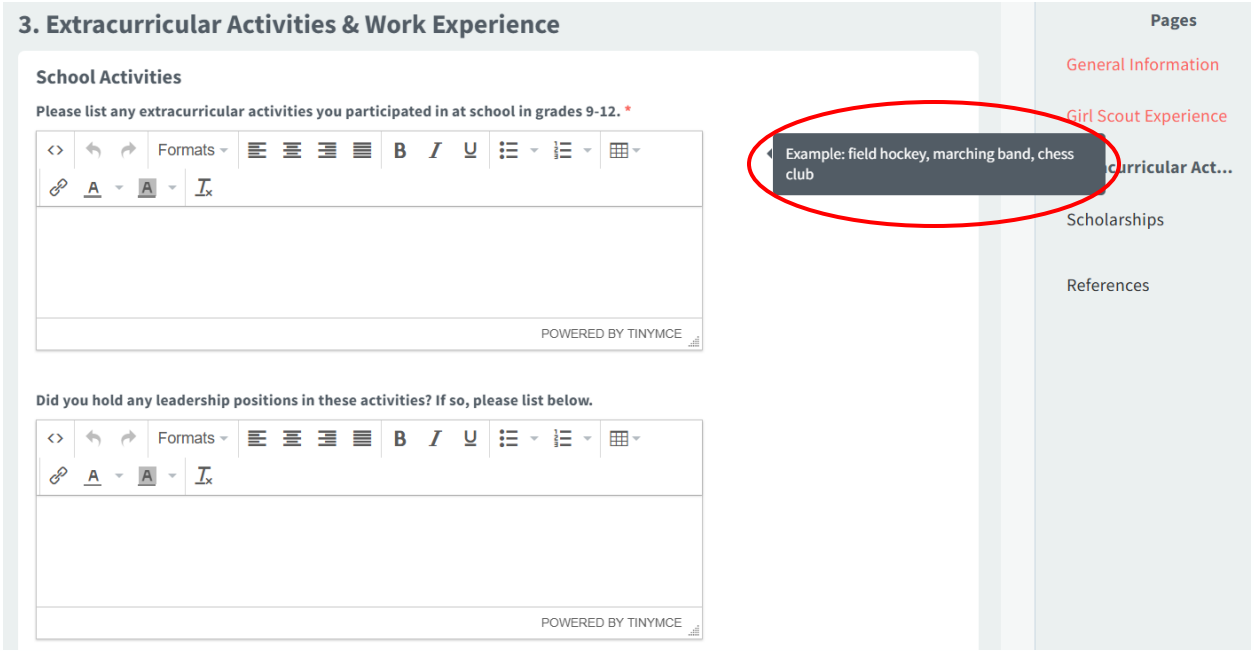
When is comes to Open Ended Questions please list or describe all you can

If you hover over a question, there can be hints or examples to help you answer

Do not use acronyms ex. SADD, TSA



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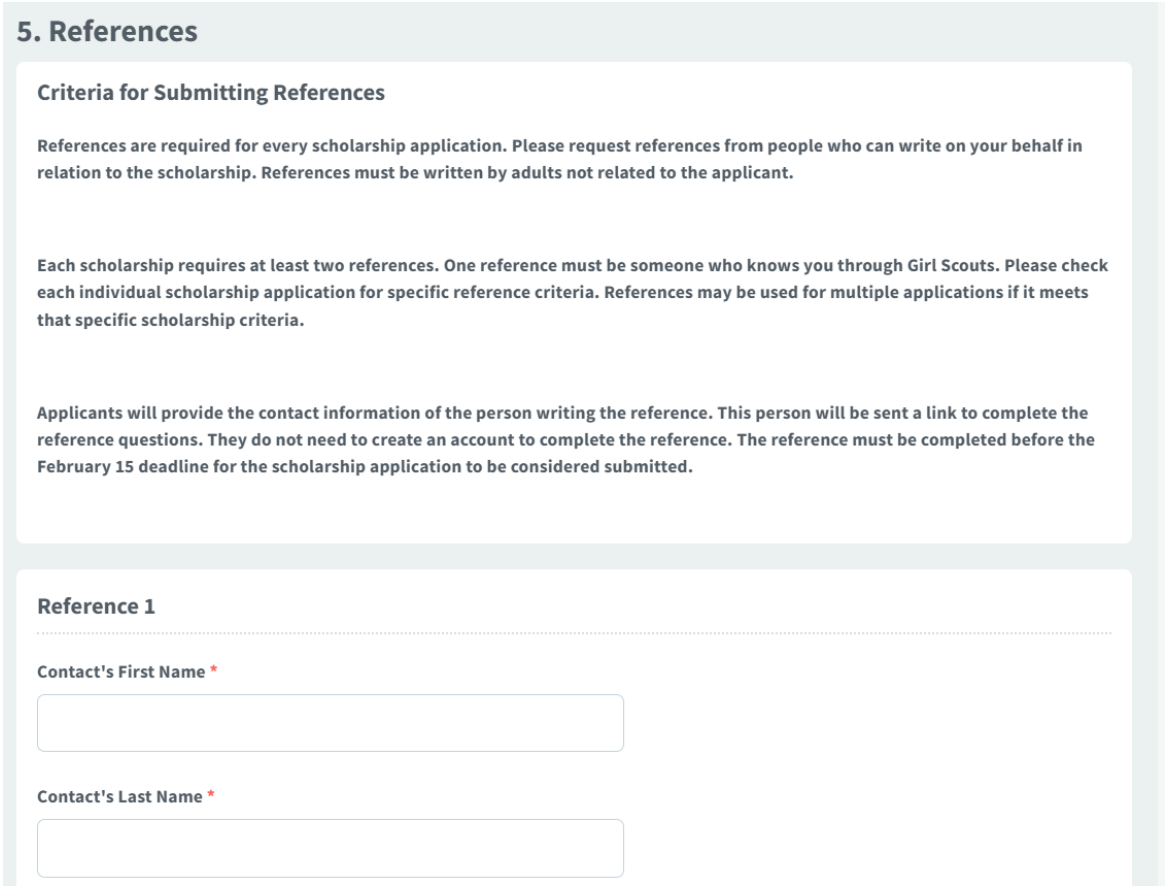
References:

- What scholarships are you applying for?
- Do they need a specific reference?
- One reference **must** be someone who knows you in Girl Scouts ex. Troop Leader, Service Unit Manager, Gold Award Coach
- One reference **could** be someone who knows you through community service
- <u>You need to have **two** references</u>; you can have up to three
- Reference must NOT be related to you



5. References

Criteria for Submitting References

References are required for every scholarship application. Please request references from people who can write on your behalf in relation to the scholarship. References must be written by adults not related to the applicant.

Each scholarship requires at least two references. One reference must be someone who knows you through Girl Scouts. Please check each individual scholarship application for specific reference criteria. References may be used for multiple applications if it meets that specific scholarship criteria.

Applicants will provide the contact information of the person writing the reference. This person will be sent a link to complete the reference questions. They do not need to create an account to complete the reference. The reference must be completed before the February 15 deadline for the scholarship application to be considered submitted.

Reference 1

Contact's First Name *

Contact's Last Name *

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References

- Talk to your potential references before adding them to your common app
- Tell them about the scholarships you will be applying for
- Ask if they will be able to write on your behalf
- If they can, tell them they will be receiving an email from SmarterSelect to complete the questions
- Tell them this needs to be completed before February 14th
- If they are not able to complete this, switch to a new reference- update the persons information in the application to assign them
- Ask early- you can start asking now- do not wait

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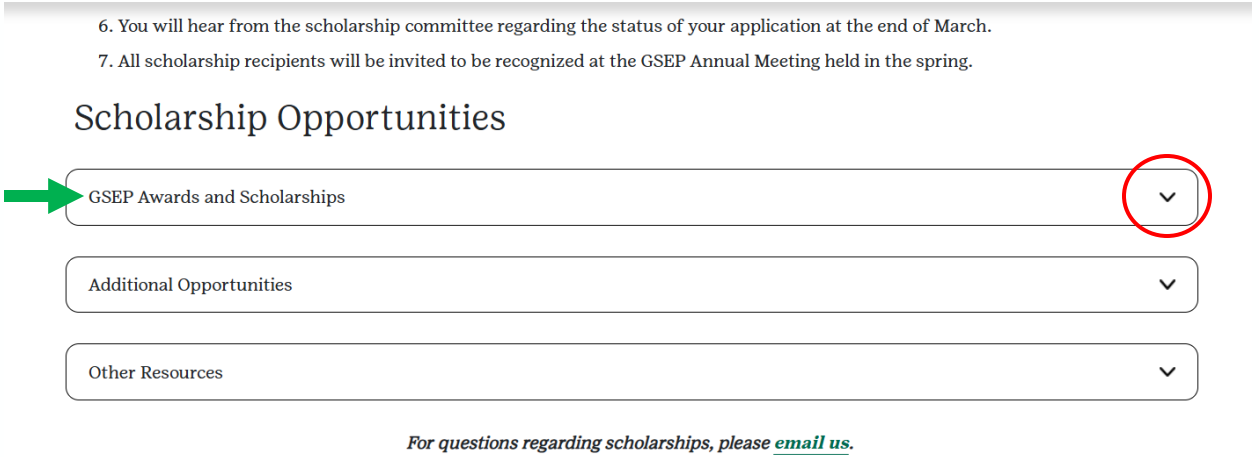
Scholarships Page
All information about our Scholarships can be found here
Use the Drop Down to find scholarships



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Tips for Completing Applications

- Create your applications in December- SAVE as you go
- Ask your references in December
- Work on you application questions through January- you can save along the way and submit when you are finished
- You will receive emails when your application is created, successfully submitted, emails have been sent to references, and when your references have completed
- You will receive a confirmation email when your reference has completed their recommendation
- Read each question thoroughly and be detailed in your answers
- You application is not complete until all your references are received

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Important Dates:

November 15- Union League Applications Open (11th grade)

December 1- Applications Open (12th grade)

December 31- Union League Applications Close

February 1- Union League Applicants will be emailed with their status

February 14- All Scholarship Applications must be submitted with references received

April 15- All applicants will receive an email on status

May 2- Annual Meeting, awardees will be invited to be recognized and receive their certificates

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Any Questions? Thank You

Contact girlawards@gsep.org with any questions

Please put “Scholarships” in the subject line

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