

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION INDUSTRY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Awards and Recognition Industry Educational Foundation (ARIEF) in conjunction with APA is pleased to offer a scholarship program for member company employees and their children and grandchildren. Ten tuition scholarships will be awarded in February 2027.



ARIEF will award ten scholarships for the 2027–2028 academic year:

CORNERSTONE DONOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Calvin E. Miller Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Estelle Funk Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

George J. Waas Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

JDS Industries Scholarship (\$1,000)

The Owen R. Siegel/R.S. Owens Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

CHAIRMAN DONOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Peter V. Ilaria Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Engraving Concepts–Roy Brewer, CRM, Educational Scholarship (\$1,000)

IMIA Scholarship (\$1,000)

PRESIDENTIAL DONOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Award Associates' Joe Rutherford Memorial Scholarship (\$500)

Recognition Roundtable Stephen L. Capper Memorial Scholarship (\$500)

These one-time awards will be payable to the recipient's educational institution for tuition.

PURPOSE OF SCHOLARSHIP

To provide financial assistance to a student with an interest in pursuing continuing education in any field.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

December 16, 2026

QUESTIONS

If you have questions or need information, please contact APA headquarters at 847.375.4800.

For additional information and application forms, visit PersonalizationPros.org.

ELIGIBILITY

Students who meet the following criteria are eligible for the scholarship. The candidate:

- is an APA member company owner, the child or grandchild of an APA member company owner, an employee of an APA member company, or the child or grandchild of an APA member company employee
- is enrolled full-time, either as a high school senior or a college student at the undergraduate level
- has declared any chosen area of educational focus
- has a 3.0 minimum grade point average at the time of application (include transcripts or official record).

SELECTION PROCESS

Recipients will be selected by ARIEF Board of Trustees based on application materials provided. All scholarship applicants will be notified of the Board of Trustees' decision in February 2027.

Payment will be made to the recipient's school of choice upon notification and in accordance with the school's scholarship guidelines. Recipients will be announced at the International Personalization Expo on February 23–26, 2027.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The following application materials must be received by December 16, 2026, to be considered:

1. Completed application form (found on next page).
2. A typed essay (no more than one page, double-spaced) addressing one of the following topics:
 - a. Describe an accomplishment you have been recognized for and its influence on you.
 - b. If you could give an award to one person who has most positively influenced our world, who would it be and why?
 - c. How can the practice of recognizing or awarding individuals build character in today's society?
3. One letter of reference or recommendation from a teacher, coach, or other adult who is not an immediate relative.
4. Transcripts or official record of GPA.

A resumé is optional.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:

AMC
Attn: ARIEF Scholarships
1061 American Lane, Suite 310
Schaumburg, IL 60173



ARIEF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this form per ARIEF eligibility criteria. Information must be typed or printed directly on this form. Please put an asterisk by your preferred mailing address.

For office use only

No. _____

Recvd: _____

Stat: _____

Name

Age

School name (include city, state)

School address

Home address

School telephone

Home telephone

E-mail address

Overall GPA

Major GPA (if in college)

Major

Expected graduation date

Honors, activities, and community service

Activities/jobs specifically related to the personalization industry

Name, city, state, and member number of the APA member company that employs you, your parent, or your grandparent

If selected for a scholarship, I will submit a photograph of myself and allow my name and photo to be used for scholarship publicity.

Signature

Date

The following materials must be submitted:

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 - a. Describe an accomplishment you have been recognized for and its influence on you.
 - b. If you could give an award to one person who has most positively influenced our world, who would it be and why?
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