



## **The Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship**

***Presented by the St. Louis Sports Commission and Sports Foundation***

### **-2026 Application Packet-**

The St. Louis Sports Commission seeks applications for the 2026 Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship. Created in 2009, the Sportsmanship Scholarship is presented annually to graduating high school seniors from the St. Louis region who exemplify outstanding sportsmanship and character in athletic competition. The recipient of the scholarship program's top award in 2026 will receive \$10,000 to use for higher education expenses. An additional \$5,000 will be awarded to one or more runner-up recipient(s), with the amounts and number of awardees determined by the scholarship selection committee, for a total of \$15,000 in available scholarship funds.

The Sportsmanship Scholarship is a program of the St. Louis Sports Foundation, the Sports Commission's 501c3 charitable affiliate. The Sports Foundation celebrates and elevates sportsmanship in the community. Funding for the Sportsmanship Scholarship comes from donations and fundraising events. Recipients are selected by the Sports Foundation's Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship Committee. Since the program's inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$237,000 to 72 college-bound St. Louis area students.

#### **Scholarship Criteria:**

**In preparing an application, please pay close attention to the following criteria and factors for consideration:**

- Scholarship candidates should embody the ideals and values of sportsmanship: honesty, integrity, civility, selflessness, kindness, compassion and class.
- While off-field activities and community service are applauded, candidates will be evaluated for their approach and character in competition. Off-field activities and community service do not factor into the selection consideration, and therefore, should not be the focus of an applicant's video essay or letter(s) of recommendation.
- **Greatest consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate a track record of sportsmanship and respect directed at opponents, officials and the spirit of the game. Applicants and their letter(s) of recommendation should cite specific examples in which the scholarship candidate displayed selflessness, integrity, kindness and class to the benefit of a non-teammate. The scholarship committee seeks candidates who transcend expectations for how one should honor the game and treat those outside their circle in competition.**
- Examples of sportsmanship can come from any time in the applicant's high school career. This includes but is not limited to participation on the applicant's high school team(s), as well as any recreational/select/travel teams or leagues and any league-sanctioned individual competition.
- The selection of the scholarship recipient is based solely on the applicant's commitment to sportsmanship and ability to address the stated criteria within the video essay and letter(s) of recommendation.
- The Sportsmanship Scholarship is not awarded based on financial need. Applicants should not reference their financial situation or socioeconomic background. Applicants who violate this guideline will be disqualified from consideration for the scholarship.
- Athletic performance (wins and other statistics) is not a factor in the scholarship selection.
- Those connected to athletic teams, such as student managers, also are eligible for the scholarship should their leadership and behavior represent an extraordinary standard and model for all in sports to follow.

### **Applicant Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be a graduating high school senior.
- Must attend a high school in the St. Louis metropolitan area (Illinois counties: Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, St. Clair; Missouri counties: Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Warren, Washington).
- Must not be attending college on a full scholarship. Students receiving partial scholarships are eligible.

### **Required Application Materials:**

Sportsmanship Scholarship recipients will be selected by members of the St. Louis Sports Foundation's Scholarship Committee. Before consideration, each applicant must provide the committee the following documentation:

- Fully completed Sportsmanship Scholarship Applicant Form (attached).
- At least one, but no more than two Sportsmanship Scholarship Recommendation Forms (attached) each with a letter of recommendation from a coach, athletic director, teacher, school administrator, fellow student, teammate or opponent attesting to the applicant's outstanding sportsmanship (the second recommendation is optional and will in no way count against the applicant if only one is submitted).
- **A personal video essay from the applicant describing why he or she deserves the scholarship and addresses their commitment to sportsmanship. Videos should be at least two minutes in length but should not exceed three minutes.** The applicant is encouraged to articulate the importance they place on sportsmanship and share examples of when they have demonstrated extraordinary character in sports. While creativity is encouraged and appreciated, the video essay does not need to go viral. The most important thing is that it clearly tells the applicant's story.

### **How to apply:**

To apply for the Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship, please email your completed application and all supporting documents to:

St. Louis Sports Commission  
c/o Solomon Alexander  
email: [salexander@stlsports.org](mailto:salexander@stlsports.org)

Video essays must be uploaded to the Sports Commission's Hightail account through the following link:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/STLSportsCom>

**Please do not use any copyrighted images or music in your video essay submission. Any copyright violation will automatically disqualify you from scholarship consideration.**

Students may also apply by sharing their documents via Google Drive. **Please give permission for Mr. Alexander to access your documents as an 'editor' when you share them with the email address provided.** Please label your folder with the heading [First Name][Last Name] Sportsmanship Scholarship.

**If you have any questions, please contact Solomon Alexander, Sports Commission Foundation Director, at the email address provided or call 314-345-5130.**

### **Deadline:**

All scholarship applications must be received by April 14, 2026. Recipients will be notified by May 6, 2026. The scholarship will be awarded for the 2026-27 academic year.

**All scholarship recipients will be asked to attend the Sports Commission's Board of Directors meeting, at which time they will be introduced and recognized. The meeting takes place at 7:30 a.m. on May 20, 2026.**

***Applicants, coaches, parents, teachers and counselors are encouraged to review the bios of past Sportsmanship Scholarship recipients to see the attributes and actions that have resulted in recognition from the scholarship committee. The bios are posted at [www.sportsmanship.org/scholarship](http://www.sportsmanship.org/scholarship).***

## Important tips for applicants:

1. Please make sure your **completed** application is submitted by April 14, 2026. **Extensions cannot be provided for application forms, personal video essays or letter(s) of recommendation.**
2. Proofread and review all of your materials. This includes your letter(s) of recommendation. There is no penalty in the application process for asking those who write letters on your behalf if you and your parents can read them before submission. It is important for your personal video essay and letters of recommendation to show you at your best.
3. Ask questions. If there is something related to the application form, personal video essay, letter(s) of recommendation or anything else, please email [salexander@stlsports.org](mailto:salexander@stlsports.org) or call 314-345-5130.
4. Leave out the stats. You may lead your team in points, your district in touchdowns or the state in home runs. None of this matters when the scholarship committee assesses how you treat others. Sure, you can talk about the big game against your main rival in your essay, but instead of providing your stat line, give more information about the lifeline you extended to someone else.
5. Use appropriate language. Put your personal video essay and other materials together as if you are presenting them in class.
6. Please include your best recommendation letters only. The selection committee emphasizes quality over quantity due to the high volume of applications we receive.
7. Please send only one copy of your application. Multiple copies of the same application create unnecessary waste. Everyone should be good sports toward the environment, too.
8. **No applications will be accepted in-person. Please do not drop off applications at the Sports Commission offices.**



**Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship  
-2026 Applicant Form-**

---

**Applicant Data:** Only information typed or printed using black ink will be accepted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**High School Data:**

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School City and State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Post-Secondary School Data:**

Name of post-secondary school you plan to attend. Use official school name. Do not use abbreviations:

\_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Major Course of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Athletic Participation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

---

**High School Athletic Participation:**

List all sports in which you have participated in high school, the years in which you participated, and the levels at which you participated. Please also include any leadership roles you have held on any of your high school teams and beyond:

---

**Other Financial Awards:**

Students who have received other financial awards, scholarships, or grants for any reason that will cover the entire cost of their post-secondary education are not eligible to receive the Sportsmanship Scholarship. Please initial here to certify that any awards, scholarships, or grants that you have received or anticipate receiving **will not** cover the entire cost of your tuition, room, board and textbooks for the next four years:

---

**Application Checklist:**

The applicant is responsible for ensuring all materials are submitted to the St. Louis Sports Commission on time. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. This application becomes complete and valid only when the St. Louis Sports Commission has received all of the following materials:

- Applicant Form**
  - Recommendation Form with letter of recommendation from a coach, athletic director, teacher, school administrator, fellow student, teammate, opponent, or official**
  - Personal Video Essay**
- 

**Certification:**

The St. Louis Sports Foundation's Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship Committee has the sole right to select recipients based on criteria set forth in the scholarship description. This application and accompanying materials become the property of the St. Louis Sports Commission and Sports Foundation. We recommend that you keep a copy for your files.

*I acknowledge decisions of the St. Louis Sports Commission and Sports Foundation are final. I certify I meet all eligibility requirements of the program as described in the guidelines and the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If requested, I will provide proof of the information provided in this application. Further, if selected, I will provide other information as necessary to ensure receipt of funds. Falsification of information may result in termination of any award granted. I further agree to allow my/my child's likeness to appear in material promoting St. Louis Sports Commission and St. Louis Sports Foundation events and programs, including but not limited to the St. Louis Sports Commission and St. Louis Sports Foundation Web sites.*

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship -2026 Recommendation Form #1 (Required)-

**Nominator Information:** Only information typed or printed using black ink will be accepted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Information:**

Name of Recommended Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known: \_\_\_\_\_

**Letter of Recommendation:**

The letter of recommendation is an important factor in the Sportsmanship Scholarship selection. Please provide as much detail as possible as to why this nominee should win the Sportsmanship Scholarship. In writing your letter, please keep in mind the key criteria and factors for consideration:

- Scholarship candidates should be nominated for embodying the ideals and values of sportsmanship: honesty, integrity, civility, selflessness, kindness, compassion and class.
- While off-field activities and community service are applauded, scholarship candidates will be evaluated for their approach and character in competition. Off-field activities and community service do not factor into the selection consideration, and therefore, should not be the focus of an applicant's essay or letters of recommendation.
- Examples of sportsmanship can come from any time in the applicant's high school career. This includes but is not limited to participation on the applicant's high school team(s), as well as any recreational/select/travel teams or leagues and any league-sanctioned individual competition.
- The selection of the scholarship recipient is based solely on the applicant's commitment to sportsmanship and ability to address the stated criteria within the personal essay and letters of recommendation.
- The Sportsmanship Scholarship is not awarded based on financial need. Applicants should not reference their financial situation or socioeconomic background. Applicants who violate this guideline will be disqualified from consideration for the scholarship.
- **Greatest consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate a track record of sportsmanship and respect directed at opponents, officials and the spirit of the game. Applicants and their letters of recommendation should cite specific examples in which the scholarship candidate displayed selflessness, integrity, kindness and class to the benefit of a non-teammate. The scholarship committee seeks candidates who transcend expectations for how one should honor the game and treat those outside their circle in competition.**
- Athletic performance (wins and other statistics) is not a factor in the scholarship selection.
- Those connected to athletic teams, such as student managers, also are eligible for the scholarship should their leadership and behavior represent an extraordinary standard and model for all in sports to follow.

**Please submit all letters of recommendation typewritten in no more than 500 words on school or organization letterhead (if available). No handwritten letters of any kind will be accepted.** Please include your name and the name of the student in the top left corner of each additional page for identification purposes.



## Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship -2026 Recommendation Form #2 (Optional)-

**Nominator Information:** Only information typed or printed using black ink will be accepted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Information:**

Name of Recommended Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known: \_\_\_\_\_

**Letter of Recommendation:**

The letter of recommendation is an important factor in the Sportsmanship Scholarship selection. Please provide as much detail as possible as to why this nominee should win the Sportsmanship Scholarship. In writing your letter, please keep in mind the key criteria and factors for consideration:

- Scholarship candidates should be nominated for embodying the ideals and values of sportsmanship: honesty, integrity, civility, selflessness, kindness, compassion and class.
- While off-field activities and community service are applauded, scholarship candidates will be evaluated for their approach and character in competition. Off-field activities and community service do not factor into the selection consideration, and therefore, should not be the focus of an applicant's essay or letters of recommendation.
- Examples of sportsmanship can come from anytime in the applicant's high school career. This includes but is not limited to participation on the applicant's high school team(s), as well as any recreational/select/travel teams or leagues and any league-sanctioned individual competition.
- The selection of the scholarship recipient is based solely on the applicant's commitment to sportsmanship and ability to address the stated criteria within the personal essay and letters of recommendation.
- The Sportsmanship Scholarship is not awarded based on financial need. Applicants should not reference their financial situation or socioeconomic background. Applicants who violate this guideline will be disqualified from consideration for the scholarship.
- **Greatest consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate a track record of sportsmanship and respect directed at opponents, officials and the spirit of the game. Applicants and their letters of recommendation should cite specific examples in which the scholarship candidate displayed selflessness, integrity, kindness and class to the benefit of a non-teammate. The scholarship committee seeks candidates who transcend expectations for how one should honor the game and treat those outside their circle in competition.**
- Athletic performance (wins and other statistics) is not a factor in the scholarship selection.
- Those connected to athletic teams, such as student managers, also are eligible for the scholarship should their leadership and behavior represent an extraordinary standard and model for all in sports to follow.

**Please submit all letters of recommendation typewritten in no more than 500 words on school or organization letterhead (if available). No handwritten letters of any kind will be accepted.** Please include your name and the name of the student in the top left corner of each additional page for identification purposes.