

Northwest Youth Rodeo Association & Jake Thompson Memorial Scholarship

DEADLINE: Sunday, May 31, 2026, by 8:00 p.m.
SUBMIT TO: Dr. Susan FitzGerald
EMAIL: fitzgerald.susan263@gmail.com
SUBJECT LINE: (applicants name) 2026 NWYRA Scholarship

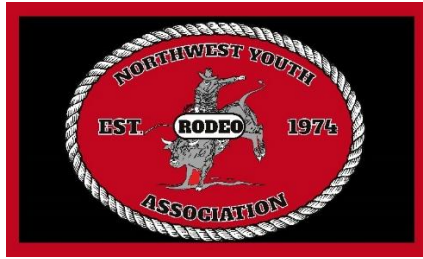
SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

1. NWYRA will award up to three Academic Scholarships to graduating Seniors that are pursuing a post-high school course of study at a college/university, other post-secondary educational institution, or trade school.
2. Academic Scholarships will be reviewed and decided upon by the Scholarship Director and NWYRA Scholarship Committee.
3. Scholarship applications will be scored according to the Scholarship Scoring Rubrics (attached).
4. Applicants must be a current and paid Contestant/Member of NWYRA.
5. Applicants must be a graduate in the year the scholarship is awarded (or equivalent completion of HS e.g. GED or equivalent).
6. NWYRA Academic Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis.
7. NWYRA Academic Scholarships are not renewable.
8. The deadline for submitting the NWYRA Academic Scholarship application will be decided by the Scholarship Committee: Scholarship Director, the NWYRA Secretary, NWYRA Treasurer, and one NWYRA Parent volunteer chosen by the Scholarship Director yearly. The Scholarship Committee will read and score the written application. The Interview Committee will be chosen from a group of rodeo parent members to conduct the interviews at the 2nd rodeo. All points from the application and interviews will be submitted to the rodeo secretary to be audited and tallied. All information will be posted on the NWYRA website and social media.
9. Applicants must complete the NWYRA Academic Scholarship application and email all required documentation to the Scholarship Director by the deadline.
10. Applicants must appear before the Interview NWYRA Scholarship Committee during the second (2nd) rodeo of the season for an interview. This interview will be scored according to the Interview Scoring Rubric and points will be submitted to the rodeo secretary to be tallied and audited.
11. The NWYRA Academic Scholarships will be presented at the third (3rd) rodeo of the season.
12. Proof of enrollment at the college/university, post-secondary educational institution, or trade school is required before scholarship funds will be issued. Once enrollment is confirmed, a check will be sent directly to the school in the Applicant's name.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPYLING:

Please submit in the following order:

1. Scholarship Application Form;
2. Letter of Application to NWYRA Scholarship Committee;
3. Personal Essay describing/explaining how you have worked in your life to make a positive difference;
4. High School or GED transcripts;
5. Two (2) letters of recommendation. These should be from high school teachers, administrators, counselors, employers, or individuals with significant knowledge of applicants experience and employment. Not your parent.
6. School Attainments List (on a separate sheet) during high school (grades 9-12);
7. Community Involvement List (on a separate sheet) during high school (grades 9-12).
8. Prepare for your interview with the NWYRA Scholarship Committee at the second (2nd) rodeo of season.



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2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____

Parents Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

High School Graduating from: _____

College/School attending in the Fall of 2026: _____

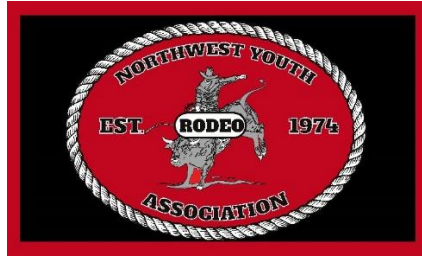
Major/Area of Study: _____

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

- I hereby affirm the above stated information provided by me is true and correct.
- I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, I must provide proof of enrollment at the college/university, post-secondary educational institution, or trade school before scholarship funds will be issued.
- I hereby consent to the use of my name, image, and likeness by NWYRA in connection with the announcement of the scholarship award.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____ Date: _____

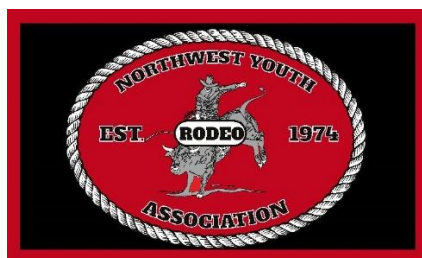
Signature of parent (if under 18): _____ Date: _____



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SCHOLARSHIP SCORING RUBRIC

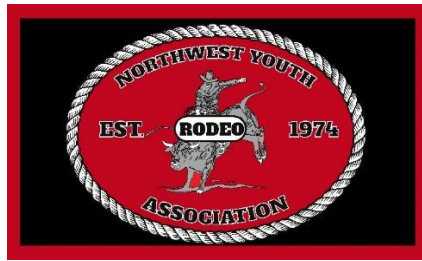
CRITERIA	SCORING POINTS			TOTAL POINTS
	3	2	1	
Scholarship Application Form	All sections complete; typed, neat presentation; statement of accuracy signed and dated	One section missing; neat presentation; or all sections complete and messy	Two or more sections missing; Either neat or messy	
Letter of Application to NwYRA Scholarship Committee	Includes career goals and biographical background; Information is well articulated and typed; neat and professional	Contains career goals and biographical information content written with minimal information; neat	Incomplete career goals and/or biographical information content weak or sparse; hand written/messy	
Personal Essay	Minimum of 250 words, word count noted, typed, double spaced, neat and professional (spelling, punctuation, format readable); well-articulated	N/A	Incomplete for minimum words, formatting messy, spelling and/or punctuation errors	
HS or GED Transcripts and GPA	4.00+ - 3.90	3.89 – 3.70	3.69 – 3.0	
Two (2) Letters of Recommendation	LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION SCORING RUBRIC Maximum of 24 points			
SCHOOL ATTAINMENTS Academic Honors Awards Sports Activities Membership Activities	Numerous (15 or more)	Some (9-14)	Few (3-8)	
COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT Volunteering Community Service Hobbies Extracurricular Activities	Numerous (6 or more noted)	Some (3-5 noted)	Few (1-2)	
APPLICANT INTERVIEW	INTERVIEW SCORING RUBRIC Maximum of 23 points			
NWYRA Membership	3 rd Year or More	2 nd Year	1 st Year	
TOTAL POINTS:				



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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION SCORING RUBRIC

CRITERIA	SCORING POINTS				TOTAL POINTS
	4	3	2	1	
Recommendation regarding Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter strongly addresses or responds to level of character of applicant. •Strong examples of positive character traits with specific detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter adequately addresses or responds to level of character of applicant. •Adequate examples of positive character traits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter minimally addresses or responds to level of character of applicant. •Few examples of positive character traits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter does not address or respond to level of character of applicant. •No specific example of positive character traits. 	
Recommendation regarding Work Ethic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter strongly addresses or responds to level of work ethic of applicant. •Strong examples of work ethic with specific details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter adequately addresses or responds to level of work ethic of applicant. •Adequate examples of strong work ethic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter minimally addresses or responds to level of work ethic of applicant. •Few examples of strong work ethic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter does not address or respond to level of work ethic of applicant. •No specific examples of work ethic. 	
Appropriateness of relationship to applicant regarding scholarship application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter demonstrates a strong relationship to applicant regarding knowledge of character, work ethic and/or their goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter demonstrates an adequate appropriate relationship to applicant regarding knowledge of character, work ethic and/or their goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter demonstrates some appropriate relationship to applicant regarding knowledge of character, work ethic and/or their goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Letter demonstrates no appropriate relationship to applicant regarding knowledge of character, work ethic and/or their goals. 	
TOTAL POINTS:					



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INTERVIEW SCORING RUBRIC

CRITERIA	SCORING POINTS				TOTAL POINTS
	4	3	2	1	
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overall appearance is very neat. •Choice in clothing is appropriate for interview. •Very well groomed. •Overall appearance is businesslike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overall neat appearance. •Choice in clothing is acceptable for the type of interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Appearance is somewhat untidy. •Choice in clothing is inappropriate. •Grooming attempt is evident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overall appearance is untidy. •Choice in clothing is inappropriate for interview (torn, unclean, wrinkled). •Poor grooming. 	
Greeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Professional behavior and language (handshake, “hello,” “thank you,” eye contact, etc.) •Friendly and courteous to all involved in interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Acceptable behavior, well mannered, age appropriated and context professionalism lacking. •Courteous to all involved in interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Used typical behavior and language. Did modify behavior to fit the interview. •Attempts to be courteous to all involved in interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unacceptable behavior and language. •Unfriendly and not courteous. 	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very attentive throughout the interview. •Speaks clearly •Appropriate use of sentence structure and grammar. •Commitment and enthusiasm for use of scholarship to further goals is conveyed. •Volume conveys appropriate tone for interview. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Showed interest throughout the interview. •Speaks clearly. •Minimal mistakes in sentence structure and grammar. •Knowledge and facts are included/shared. •Volume is appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Showed some interest throughout the interview. •Speaking is unclear-lapses in sentence structure and grammar. •Knowledge of personal goals is minimal •Volume is uneven (varied) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Presentation shows lack of interest. •Speaking is unclear and very difficult to understand message of what is being said (mumbling). •Facts about scholarship and goals not included. •Volume is inappropriate for interview (spoke too loudly or too softly) 	
Responding to Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Thorough answers to questions and provides personal and professionally appropriated details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Answers are acceptable and accurate. •Answers questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gives inaccurate answers. •Attempts to answer questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Inappropriate answers to questions. •Did not attempt to answer questions. 	
Asking Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Asked questions relating to the scholarship. (Evidence that applicant researched the NWYRA scholarship’s goal for students, requirements for fulfilling eligibility, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Asked questions relating to the scholarship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Applicant asked questions that were not related to the scholarship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No questions were asked. 	
				Total Points:	

