

Knights of Columbus
Don Bosco Council 7784
2026 George Flynn Memorial Scholarship Guidelines
January 1, 2026

Criteria:

Applicant must be a graduating high school senior and related (i.e., son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew) to a member in good standing of the **Don Bosco Council 7784 Knights of Columbus**.

Intent:

To assist with first year college or trade school expenses for needy Council member's relatives whose goal is either academic in nature or to support a trade school education (**letter of acceptance from college or trade school required, including tuition and fees**).

Procedure:

Submit letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, counselor or pastor of your Parish and a typed essay describing how your Catholic upbringing has impacted your life. Be sure to include activities in which you participated, including Community Service. Provide a description of your post-secondary goals and objectives and how you plan to use the scholarship, if it is awarded to you.

Statement of need:

Provide information for the Scholarship Committee on what circumstances make a scholarship award of value to the beneficiary and his/her family.

Letter and recommendation to be submitted no later than March 31, 2026, to:

Wayne P. Buckley

Chairman, Scholarship Committee

c/o Don Bosco Knights of Columbus Council 7784

P.O. Box 52

Newton, NJ 07860

Knights of Columbus
Don Bosco Council 7784
2026 George Flynn Memorial Scholarship Application

Applicant Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Current Address: _____

Current Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Sponsored by: _____

Council Affiliation: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

High School Attending: _____

Recommended by (include letter of recommendation): _____

Title and Contact Information: _____

College or Trade School Name and Address: _____

Date of Acceptance (include letter of acceptance): _____

Field of Study: _____

An essay must be included describing how your Catholic upbringing has impacted your life. Be sure to include achievements and activities in which you participated, including Community Service. Provide a description of your post-secondary goals and objectives and how you plan to use this scholarship, if it is awarded to you. Provide information for the Scholarship Committee on what circumstances make a scholarship award of value to the beneficiary and his/her family.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Scholarship Essay Format Template

Here is a basic outline that you can follow to help write an award-winning essay.

1. Introductory Sentence:
 - a. State your full name and address.
 - b. Identify the Council Member that you are related to and your relationship.
 - c. State the name of the scholarship that you are applying for.

2. Educational Objectives and Goals
 - a. State your major and why you selected it.
 - b. State future goals.

3. Brief Background
 - a. Tell about yourself.
 - b. Give specific examples of your character.
 - c. Highlight your interests including volunteer work and experience.

4. Need
 - a. State why you need this scholarship.
 - b. State how this scholarship will help you and your family.

5. Conclusion
 - a. Highlight an item or two from your essay.
 - b. Thank the judges (optional).

Formatting your Scholarship Essay

A scholarship essay is typically:

- Font Times New Roman 12.
- Double spaced.
- One-inch margins on all sides of the paper.
- Printed on A4 sized bond paper.

Tips for Scholarship Applications and Essays

Getting Started

Before you start filling out your scholarship application, you need to spend some time thinking about how to write a scholarship essay that will get the results that you want. For many students, the hardest part of writing a scholarship essay is getting comfortable with highlighting your accomplishments. Students often see this as *bragging* about themselves. But this is exactly what you need to do in order to convince the judges that you should receive the scholarship instead of the other applicants. You have to tell the judges what makes you a better candidate.

Therefore, one of the most important things you have to do when getting ready to write your essay is to spend time reflecting on just how wonderful you really are. When you write down all of the great things that you have accomplished, it will be much easier for you to create an essay that conveys your strong points to the judges.

Tips for getting ready to write a strong essay:

- Make a list of all of your accomplishments.
- Develop a list of your extracurricular activities.
- Write down the three accomplishments that you are most proud of.
- Think of a problem that you faced and write down how you were able to overcome it.
- Put in writing your career goals, or the reason for continuing your education.
- Pretend that you have to write a letter of recommendation for yourself. Write down the three most important things that you would say.

Equipped with this list of your best traits, accomplishments and goals, you're on your way to write a winning essay. Of course, you have to make sure that your essay is well written, on topic, sounds sincere and is free of typographical errors. No matter what you end up saying about yourself, be sure to proofread it very carefully. It's always a great idea to have someone else double check for spelling, grammar or typographical errors. Don't wait until the last minute to write your essay.

Read the Instructions

This is the first mistake that students make – they don't read the instructions.

- Do you qualify for the scholarship? Do you meet the criteria?
- What is the deadline and what do you need to submit? (e.g., Essay, letter of recommendation, etc.)
- Are there any limits on the essay? (e.g., Words, fonts, spacing, pages, etc.)

Example Scholarship Essay Questions

- Describe one specific example of your leadership ability.
- Describe why you choose an alternative to college and why you are deserving of the scholarship.

- Describe what influenced your decision to pursue a trade school education as a career.
- What personal information do you wish to share with the scholarship selection committee?

Your essay should be easy to read. Write what you know. Your voice will come through if the essay is about something you know, love or care about. Here are some suggestions for organizing your essay in four simple paragraphs:

First Paragraph

This is your introduction, and you want to make it good. You want to capture the reader's attention from the start. Start with who you are, what your major is and what your career goals are. Keep it simple. End with what makes you the best candidate for the scholarship – this one sentence will lead into the second paragraph. For example, *“I believe that I am the best candidate for this scholarship because*”.

Second Paragraph

Why are you the best candidate? What have you done so far? This is where you begin to support your case. Why did you choose to attend a trade school instead of college? How did you choose your major? What are your positive qualities, accomplishments, work experience, internships, volunteer work, leadership experience, extracurricular activities, personal problems that you have overcome, etc.? Let the scholarship committee know that your goal is realistic, and that you are well on your way to achieving your goals.

Third Paragraph

What are your future plans? Be specific about your plans for pursuing your goals. Where do you plan to go after trade school? What future education do you expect to pursue? How do you plan to use your education to achieve your career goals?

Fourth Paragraph

Make sure your conclusion brings it all together. Begin by restating what makes you the best candidate for the scholarship (this is a simple one or two sentence summaries of the key points from paragraphs 2 and 3). Then explain how you will benefit from the scholarship in helping you to achieve your career goals. Finally, thank the scholarship committee for the opportunity to be considered for the scholarship.

Who to ask to write a Letter of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are not a popularity contest but rather they are an important part of the application process. Ask someone who knows you well and can write intelligently about you and your achievements. Teachers, Counselors, Advisors, Coaches and religious leaders are all good sources for recommendations. However, be sure that the person you ask has the ability to write a good letter and give them enough time to get it completely before the deadline.

References:

Suggested Items needed on your Personal Essay for Scholarship Applications – provided by City College Scholarship Office

Scholarship tips from Life Tips (scholarship.lifetips.com)