Scotch On The Rocks Scholarship

Supporting the Next Generation of Highland Breeders

Scholarship Overview

The Scotch On The Rocks Scholarship aims to support young individuals who are passionate about agriculture, livestock breeding, and the Highland cattle industry. The award recognizes leadership, dedication, and a commitment to excellence in genetics, animal husbandry, and the livestock industry.

Award Amount: $1,000
Number of Recipients: 1 per year
Deadline: December 1st, 2026
Announcement: Winner will be announced during the Scotch On The Rocks Social in January.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

1.)Be at least 16 years of age and no older than 21 years of age at the time of application.

2). Be an active AHCA junior member.

3). Demonstrate an interest or involvement in agriculture, animal science, or the Highland cattle industry.

4.) Be a resident of The United States.

5.) Be exhibiting at or attending the National Western Stock Show.

6.) Submit all required materials by the deadline.

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Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following:

1. **Essay** (500–750 words)
    - Essay Topic: *"Life Lessons From The Show Ring"*
      Explore the different life lessons learned from showing Highland cattle.
    - Save as: Lastname_Firstname_Essay.PDF
2. **Resume**
    - Highlight educational background, agricultural involvement, leadership, community service, and achievements.
    - Save as: Lastname_Firstname_Resume.PDF
3. **Cover Letter**
    - Introduce yourself, include how many years you have been an AHCA member, explain your interest in the Highland cattle industry, and share why this scholarship would help you reach your goals.
    - Save as: Lastname_Firstname_CoverLetter.PDF
4. **Letter of Recommendation**
    - One letter of recommendation (e.g., from a teacher, 4-H/FFA advisor, breeder, or mentor).
    - Save as: Lastname_Firstname_LOR.PDF
5. **Photo of Applicant**
    - Include a headshot or photo of you showing. If chosen, this photo will be used on social media, website, sale site, etc.
    - Save as: Lastname_Firstname_Photo.JPG

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Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the SOTR Scholarship committee using a 100-point scoring system.

Applicants will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Essay Quality & Originality: 30 Points**

  Quality of writing, creativity, originality, and the ability to communicate ideas effectively.

- **Industry Knowledge & Passion: 20 Points**

  Demonstrated passion, involvement, and understanding of the Highland breed and the livestock industry as a whole.

- **Leadership & Future Aspirations: 20 Points**

  Evidence of leadership, community involvement, personal initiative, and ambitious future goals.

- **Application Completeness: 10 Points**

  Thoroughness of the application and ability to follow all instructions and submission requirements.

- **Highland Breed Involvement: 10 Points**

  Level of participation, commitment, and involvement within the Highland breed community.

- **Overall Creativity: 10 Points**

  Originality, thoughtfulness, and creativity demonstrated throughout the entire application, beyond the essay alone.

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Submission Instructions

- Combine all documents into separate PDF files (not Word or Google Docs).
- Attach all files in one email with the subject line:
  "SOTR Scholarship – [Your Full Name]"
- Send to: thehighlandconnection@gmail.com
- Deadline: December 1st, 2026

Original Work Policy

All application materials — including essays, cover letters, and resumes — must be the applicant's own original work. Submissions that show evidence of being generated, written, or heavily assisted by artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or similar programs) may be disqualified or penalized at the discretion of the selection committee. We encourage applicants to express their own thoughts, experiences, and ideas, as authenticity and personal insight are key components of this scholarship.

Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

The selected recipient will receive a $1,000 cash award and be featured on our socials and on the Scotch On The Rocks Sale – celebrating their achievements and passion for the Highland breed.

We sincerely thank all applicants for their time, effort, and passion for agriculture and the Highland breed. Each submission represents the bright future of our industry, and we look forward to reviewing your applications. Your dedication inspires us, and we're honored to support the next generation of agricultural leaders through this scholarship.

- ***The Scotch On The Rocks Scholarship Committee***

  Sterling Reichenbach, Jordan Ritz, & Shana Toth