

JA of Chicago Scholarship:  
<https://jaofchicagoscholarships.smapply.us>

## JA Colonel Henry Crown Scholarships (\$60,000)

### Deadline

- Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (4) Scholarships to be Awarded

### Award

- \$60,000 Scholarship (\$15,000/year for a four-year period while pursuing a degree at an accredited college or university of your choice)
- Paid attendance at a summer internship program (3 summers at 10 weeks each) with a Colonel Henry Crown affiliated company or an agency supported by Crown Family Philanthropies.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a high school senior who has an average of “B” or better beginning in your sophomore year
- Must have participated in two or more Junior Achievement high school programs
- Applicants need to submit a completed Colonel Henry Crown application
- Finalists must be available Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24 for a 25-minute virtual interview to determine the scholarship recipients.
- Finalists must submit a brief JA experience video by Friday, April 24 following this link:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/105qH2hC9CKxtBgJmtb2ogaHWm\\_S2dBX5](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/105qH2hC9CKxtBgJmtb2ogaHWm_S2dBX5)

Scholarship Recipients will be notified by Wednesday, May 6 AND must be available Tuesday, May 19 for the award announcement at the Junior Achievement Board of Directors' Meeting to be held at the Union League Club at 65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago from 11:00-1:00 pm.

## JA General Scholarships (\$1,000-\$5,000)

### Deadline

- Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – Multiple/Variou Scholarships Awarded

### Award

- Scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000 as a one-time payment to the college or university of your choice.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a high school senior who has an average of “B” or better beginning in your sophomore year
- Must have participated in two or more Junior Achievement programs at some point during your academic career (elementary school, middle school or high school)
- General Scholarship recipients are determined utilizing the Colonel Henry Crown application as well; Please submit a completed Colonel Henry Crown application - and all of its required attachments
- Students who wish to be considered for the \$2,500 Sandy Daffée Future Leader Scholarship should also complete the required essay supplement



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## JA Company Program Scholarships (\$2,000 - \$3,000)

### Deadline

- Wednesday, April 15, 2026

### Award

- (1) \$3,000 and (1) \$2,000 Awarded

### Eligibility Criteria

- Application link will open March 4, 2026
- Must be a high school senior who participated in the JA Company Program, JA Company Program Pop-Up.
- Applicants need to submit the Student Scholarship Essay and Application

## JA High School Heroes Scholarships (\$1,000)

### Deadline

- Wednesday, April 15, 2026

### Award

- Multiple/Variou Scholarships Awarded

### Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a high school senior who participated as a High School Heroes volunteer twice in which you trained and facilitated a Junior Achievement program in a local elementary classroom serving as the volunteer.
- Applicants need to submit an essay detailing their experience

## JA Experian Scholarships (\$5,000)

### Deadline

- Wednesday, April 15, 2026

### Award

- Multiple/Variou Scholarships Awarded

### Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a high school senior who participated in JA programs.
- Applicants need to submit a 500-word essay OR 3-5 minute video highlighting their 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year financial and career goals and how they plan on achieving them.



# 2025-2026 Scholarship Overview & Requirements

## Colonel Henry Crown Scholarship Fund

The fund will be used to provide a scholarship program for qualified Chicago area youth and will be administered by Junior Achievement. The program, supported by the Fund, will provide:

1. \$60,000 Scholarship (\$15,000 per year for a four-year period while pursuing a degree at an accredited college or university of your choice.)
  2. Opportunity to apply for paid internships (3 summers at 10 weeks each) with a nonprofit organization supported by Crown Family Philanthropies. The goal is to place the student winners in a situation that best fits the students and supporting organization's needs.
- Applicants for the Henry Crown Scholarship must be a current senior, participated in two or more Junior Achievement high school programs and be recommended by their teacher and/or Junior Achievement volunteer.
  - Children of Junior Achievement of Chicago full or part time employees are not eligible to be considered for the Henry Crown Scholarship.
  - Applicants must have had an average of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 or better, beginning in their sophomore year in high school, and shall furnish a complete, signed transcript of past and current high school class work. The results of SAT, ACT or PSAT college entrance exams shall be included, if available. Scholastic promise, motivation, moral character, leadership qualities and good citizenship are the major considerations for the selection of awardees.
  - Applicants should submit a personal essay, enumerating his/her reasons for desiring to continue their education and their future goals. Applicants will be selected on an objective and non-discriminatory basis.
  - Applications should include evidence of acceptance or tentative acceptance at an institution of higher learning of their choice. Grant money will be disbursed directly to the institution in payment towards qualified required educational expenses, including tuition and required fees.
  - Finalists must be available Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24 for a 25-minute virtual interview to determine the scholarship recipients. Finalists must submit a brief JA experience video by Friday, April 24 following this link:
  - Scholarship Recipients will be notified by Wednesday, May 6 AND must be available Tuesday, May 19 for the award announcement at the Junior Achievement Board of Directors' Meeting to be held at the Union League Club at 65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago from 11:00-1:00 pm.
  - Please direct questions to Maria Ramos, SVP of Education and Operations at [mramos@jachicago.org](mailto:mramos@jachicago.org) or Toiria Baker, Director, Chicago Central at [tbaker@jachicago.org](mailto:tbaker@jachicago.org).
  - The Junior Achievement Scholarship Committee is comprised of corporate and community volunteers. The committee's judgment will be final in all decisions having to do with the selection and administration of the program.
  - The following information is required to be considered for the Colonel Henry Crown Scholarship:
    1. Completed Henry Crown Application
    2. JA Volunteer or Classroom Teacher Rating Scale
    3. High School Rating Scale
    4. Transcript
    5. SAT/ACT or PSAT Scores
    6. Letter of Recommendation
    7. Student Essay - detailing reason(s) for wanting to continue education and future goals
    8. Letter of Acceptance from College/University

Applications are due by **DEADLINE Wednesday, April 15, 2026**



## The Sandy Daffé Future Leader Scholarship

### Supplementary Essay Prompts

- All high school seniors who wish to be considered for The Sandy Daffé Future Leader Scholarship must complete this essay supplement, in addition to the Colonel Henry Crown Scholarship application. Once submitted, Junior Achievement of Chicago will judge essays on content and form. The author of the top essay will receive a scholarship for \$2,500.
- On a separate page, please respond to one of the following prompts in 300-500 words:
  1. Tell us about a favorite leader of yours, either historical or of the present. What made them so influential and why do you admire them?
  2. Many great leaders are committed to their causes. Write about something that you feel passionately about and explain how you could lead others to care about your cause.
  3. Write about a time that you took the lead. How did you react? What did you learn from the experience?
  4. Do you think that leaders are born with the ability to lead, or do you think they develop their leadership skills? Why?



## Survey Monkey Applicant Guide

Application & Supplement are due by DEADLINE Wednesday, April 15, 2026 via Survey Monkey at:  
<https://jaofchicagoscholarships.smapply.us>.

How to apply for the Junior Achievement of Chicago Scholarships?

1. Access the Junior Achievement of Chicago 2025-2026 Scholarship Application by using this link:  
<https://jaofchicagoscholarships.smapply.us>. To begin the application, click “Begin” Start the application by filling in your name and email address. Once your email address is entered, you will be asked to log in or create a password to set up a Survey Monkey “Apply” account.
2. Once an application is started, you may save, exit, and return to your application at any time. If you need to return to an unsubmitted application, simply log into your Survey Monkey Apply account by going to  
<https://jaofchicagoscholarships.smapply.us>. Navigate to the “Applications” tab on the left to view and open your application(s). Or may also begin the application and log in after entering your email address on the form.
3. Once your application is fully submitted, you have successfully applied to the Colonel Henry Crown and JA Scholarships.
4. If you would like to be considered for the Sandy Daff   Future Leader Scholarship, click on the application tile. Click “Begin” and complete additional scholarship form with essay questions.
5. All applications must be complete by DEADLINE Wednesday, April 15, 2026. No late applications are accepted.
6. Please reach out to [afusco@jachicago.org](mailto:afusco@jachicago.org) for any questions or concerns you may have during your application process.
7. Links to additional scholarship program offered through Junior Achievement of Chicago, can be found on the website <https://chicago.ja.org>.

Thank you!



## Student Scholarship Essay Information and Application

### Deadline

- Complete applications with accompanying essays are due by Wednesday, April 15, 2026 via email to [afusco@jachicago.org](mailto:afusco@jachicago.org).

### Eligibility Criteria

- Only SENIOR students who participate in the JA Company Program are eligible to submit an essay for consideration. Once submitted, Junior Achievement of Chicago will review essays on content and form. The top 2 essays will receive either \$3,000 or \$2,000 furnished by Discover Financial Services. Authors of the winning essays will be invited to attend the Chicago Area Board of Directors Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and may be asked to read their winning essay at that time.

### Essay

- Please compose essay in response to the question below. Your response should be in paragraph format and should not exceed more than 1,000 words. Essays should be type written, double spaced, 12-point font. Please attach completed essay behind a copy of this form and ensure that your first and last name, school name and JA Company name appear at the top of each page.

### Question

- From start-up through liquidation, numerous concepts were covered in the JA Company Program. Please demonstrate your understanding of the JA Company program by illustrating a minimum of three (3) “key concepts” that would allow you to run a successful business. Additionally, please explain how you will apply your experiences with the JA Company Program moving forward into your collegiate and professional life. Please cite specific examples from your JA Company to support all statements.

