Instructions for Illinois DAR Scholarship Applicants and Illinois DAR Chapters

The Illinois State Organization awards up to eight $1000 scholarships each year; seven of which are "general" scholarships (for students studying in Illinois institutions), and one, known as the General Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship, for a student committed to an American History major. Winning applicants receive the funds after submitting proof they have achieved no less than a C average in the college semester following the announcement of their award. The scholarship funds are sent directly to the school following receipt of a certified transcript from the college or university, which must be sent to the Scholarship Chair.

Rules and Instructions for Applicants and Chapters

1. **All applications for Illinois DAR Scholarships, new or renewal, must be sponsored by an Illinois DAR Chapter.** No application will be considered without this sponsorship. Information about how to find the nearest DAR chapter can be found on the Illinois State DAR website: www.ildar.org or by communicating directly with the state chair to find a chapter.
2. **Each chapter is limited to the sponsorship of one new applicant for the general scholarship and one for the General Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship. A chapter may consider sponsoring a renewal applicant, in addition to the new applicant, with the understanding that those applicants are competing for the same funds.**
3. All forms are new for 2027. Be certain you are using the current form. (Note: All applications for scholarships offered through the National Society DAR Scholarship Committee and the American Indians Committee will now be submitted using the online Application Submission Portal found on the DAR's public website (Scholarship webpages). Emailed and mailed applications will no longer be accepted.
4. **Applicants must present their complete set of requirements, as listed on the application form, to the DAR chapter for consideration of sponsorship no later than January 31, 2027. The chapter must have received the completed package by that date. Applications received after that date will not be considered.**
5. **The application chosen by the chapter for sponsorship must be supported by an original letter indicating the reasons the applicant was selected. The contents of this letter are considered in the overall judging.** The chapter regent or scholarship chair must also complete the sponsorship endorsement line on the application itself in addition to this letter.
6. **The chapter must mail the entire package for the sponsored applicant to the Illinois DAR Scholarship Committee Chair, to be received by the Chair no later than February 20, 2027.** Applications may not be submitted piecemeal and may not be emailed.

7. Students are eligible for an Illinois DAR general scholarship if they will be attending an Illinois college or university. Applicants for renewal of a general scholarship must be attending an Illinois college or university. Other application package requirements are listed on the application form.
8. Students are eligible for a General Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship if they plan to major in American History. To renew this scholarship, the transcript accompanying the application must display credit for American History courses. Students applying for this scholarship are not limited to an Illinois college or university.
9. Students are eligible to apply for a renewal of a general scholarship if they have won an Illinois DAR Scholarship in a prior year; have achieved no less than a C average during their undergraduate years; will continue their education at an Illinois college or university; and have the sponsorship of an Illinois DAR chapter.
10. Sponsored applicants for new and renewal scholarships will be judged at the state level. The applicants are judged on their academic records, financial need (not necessary for General Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship), extracurricular activities, and accomplishments. Consideration of first-time applicants includes the recommendations of adults to whom they are not related, in addition to the DAR Chapter sponsorship letter. The 400-word autobiography included in applications is judged for content and composition. All applicants, new and renewal, are competing for the same funds. An effort is made to award one general scholarship within each Illinois DAR district, but should no eligible or qualified applicants be received from a district, the judges may select a winner from another district. The General Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship applicants are competing with each other statewide. The award of this scholarship is not considered in relation to district. **Race, religion, gender or national origin are not considered in judging any Illinois scholarship application. No photos should accompany applications.**
11. Winning scholarship applicants and their sponsoring chapters will be notified at the conclusion of the judging, sometime in March. **Winning applicants must keep the Illinois DAR Scholarship Committee Chair advised of their most current mailing and email addresses, as well as their phone number, to facilitate contact regarding distribution of the scholarship monies the following spring.**

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Illinois DAR Scholarship Committee Chair

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