The Toro Company Scholarship Programs
Frequently Asked Questions

The Toro Company Scholarship Program: https://scholarshipamerica.org/scholarship/toro/

Mike and Tami Hoffman Scholarship Program: https://scholarshipamerica.org/scholarship/hoffman/

AT A GLANCE

What's the difference between these two scholarship programs?

- The Toro Company Scholarship Program is sponsored by The Toro Company, and the Mike and Tami Hoffman Scholarship Program is sponsored by the Hoffman Family Foundation (i.e. Mike and Tami Hoffman).
- As of October 2025, the two programs have the same eligibility requirements and guidelines.
- These two programs increase the likelihood of dependents of employees to receive a scholarship.
- A student may only receive one award from any scholarship affiliated with The Toro Company.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

For Applicants:

Application Deadline – January 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time (U.S.)

Recommendation Deadline – January 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time (U.S.)

For Recipients:

Scholarship Acceptance Deadline – Approximately two weeks after award notification email is sent (Date provided in notification email)

For Renewals:

Renewal Form Deadline – February 28 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time (U.S.)

ELIGIBILITY – Who Can Apply

Who should be completing the application, the employee or the student?

- The student applying for the scholarship should create an account in their name and complete the application themselves.

Can students apply for both scholarships?

- Yes, students are encouraged to apply for both scholarships, provided they are eligible for both.

Are employees and their spouses eligible to apply for this scholarship?

- Only dependents of qualifying employees may apply to The Toro Company Scholarship Program. However, dependents and employees may apply to the Mike and Tami Hoffman Scholarship Program. For more information about eligibility, please go to the Learn More page by visiting the landing page and clicking on the name of the scholarship program.

Can my grandchildren apply for this scholarship?

- In most cases, no. The only grandchildren who are eligible are those who are legally adopted by the employee grandparent or primarily supported by the employee.

Can students apply if they have only one semester remaining in their undergraduate studies?

- No, new recipients must be enrolled for the entire upcoming academic year.

Can students enrolled in graduate programs apply?

- No, the scholarship is for undergraduate studies only.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Is my parent allowed to fill out the application for me?

- No. Only the student applying can complete and submit the scholarship application. Students are responsible for filling out the application with the most accurate information possible, as well as writing all essays themselves.

Am I required to provide SAT or ACT scores?

- No, but it is recommended. If you do provide your SAT or ACT scores, provide the highest score you received at the time you apply, as they will be reviewed in the evaluation process.

The application requests information about the school I plan on attending, but I do not know which school I will attend yet. What should I state?

- Please enter the name of one of the top schools that you are considering attending. If you receive a scholarship and your school choice changes, you can alert Scholarship America at the time that you accept your award. Scholarship recipients who change schools throughout their program need to notify Scholarship America of the change.

Do I need to be accepted at a college before I can apply to the scholarship?

- No. On your application, please state the college that you plan on attending and if the school choice changes after receiving a scholarship, you can notify Scholarship America (see bottom of document for program-specific email).

In the essay portion, what is meant by "overcoming obstacles"?

- We all experience challenges throughout our lives, however, this question is intended for students who have experienced a serious barrier, tragedy, or other situation that Scholarship America may want to take into consideration while evaluating their application. Please note that this portion is left blank on most applications. Completing this portion will not give an applicant an advantage unless the situation is interpreted as a significant obstacle by Scholarship America.

Is the application available in languages other than English?

- The online guidelines are available in English and Spanish. The application must be completed in English (please contact community@toro.com or your HR representative if you need help translating your application).
- The Recommendation must be submitted by an eligible adult in English by **January 15, 2026 at 3 p.m. Central Time (U.S.)**

RECOMMENDATION – Description and Requirements

Who completes the Recommendation and is it required?

- The Recommendation should be completed by someone who can provide information on your behalf about the applicant's skills, strengths, and goals (for example, a school counselor, supervisor at a job, professor/teacher, coach or mentor).
- The online form CANNOT be completed by the student's parent, relative or friend of the student.
- All applicants **must** have a Recommendation submitted on their behalf by the Recommender Deadline. If a Recommendation is not submitted by an applicant's recommender, the application will be considered incomplete.
- **Note**: A letter of recommendation does not replace the online Recommendation.

What do I need to do to have the Recommendation completed?

- Once you have started your application, you will be prompted to add a Recommender.
- After you enter their name and email and click "Add Recommender", your Recommender will receive an email from studentsupport@scholarshipamerica.org. The email will prompt them to set up a password and access their account.
- Be sure to follow up with your Recommender. **Do not assume they saw the email**, and keep in mind recommenders may need extra time because of their busy schedules.
- Once you have added a Recommender, they will be saved in your profile for you to use on future applications.
- The Recommendation form must be submitted by an eligible adult by **January 15, 2026 at 3 p.m. Central Time (U.S.)**

FINANCIAL DATA – What to Use

Whose financial data is required for the application?

- The applicant's parent(s) provide their financial data. Please refer to the instructions provided on the application.

What if my parents' current year's taxes have not been completed and filed?

- Always use your parents' financial information from the most recently **filed** tax return. Do not use estimates for an upcoming tax filing.

How is financial information completed if my parents are divorced?

- The financial information of The Toro Company employee parent must be included on the student's application. If the other parent is no longer providing financial support to the student **and** does not share custody, then that parent's information is not required. In cases in which there is shared custody and support for the student, then the financial information for both parents is required. There is a supplemental Financial Data Form available for a second parent to use, if not completing the financial information jointly. The instructions state to print the document, have it completed by the other parent, and upload with the application (along with the transcript of grades).

The financial section requests "yearly untaxed income and benefits". What does this mean?

- Untaxed income and benefits include Social Security benefits that are not taxed, child support received, and welfare payments. In many situations, parents will have no untaxed income and benefits to report.

I don't understand the questions in the Financial Information section of the application.

- Please consult the detailed Financial Information Instructions provided on the application for more clarity.

AWARD RENEWAL

Qualifying students will be sent information about renewing their award in January via email. Requirements will be outlined on the electronic form.

Renewal recipients must confirm their enrollment plans for the upcoming academic year by February 28.

If the student's email address has changed since they accepted their award, please have them email Scholarship America (see bottom of document for program-specific email) with their new email address so they may be reachable by Scholarship America.

PAYMENT PROCESS

Scholarship recipients should refer to their scholarship notification letter (sent via email), which provides detailed instructions and information about the payment process.

For recipients attending school in the U.S. or Canada:

- Scholarship payments will be processed in one installment via check.
- Scholarship checks are made payable to the school and are mailed to the student's permanent home mailing address for the student to deliver to the school.
- Checks will be mailed from Scholarship America's Minnesota office in August.

For recipients attending school outside of the U.S. or Canada:

- Scholarship payments will be processed in one installment via wire transfer.
- Before the wire payment can be sent to the student, Scholarship America will need a completed Enrollment Verification Form for the upcoming academic year and Wire Transfer Form.
- Scholarship America will initiate the award payment in September, or upon receipt of completed Enrollment Verification Form and Wire Transfer Form.

More questions? Contact Scholarship America:

Customer Service is available Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. Central Time (U.S.). Estimated reply time is within 2-3 business days.

Email:
The Toro Company Scholarship Program: toro@scholarshipamerica.org
Mike and Tami Hoffman Scholarship Program: hoffman@scholarshipamerica.org

Phone:
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