

# **Gift of Sight**

## **New York State Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.**

### **Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America**

[www.nysosdia.org](http://www.nysosdia.org)

**New York State OSDIA Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.**  
**Biagio J. Isgro, Foundation President. Joanne Spera, NYS Scholarship**  
**Chairperson. Mary Naccarato, Gift of Sight Chairperson.**

Once a year, the Gift of Sight presents a special scholarship grant to a high school graduating student, who is legally blind or visually impaired. The award criteria are that the applicant must be a current high school senior of Italian descent who will begin full time undergraduate study in the fall. The amount of the award is \$1,500.

As per the enclosed application: an official document of special need (for blindness or visual impairment, must be submitted by doctor or social services director), official transcript and SAT/ACT scores (if available), two letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors and a student essay summarizing educational and career goals, school and community services, and a discussion of the significance of Italian Heritage must be submitted for consideration.

Applicants must be a resident of New York State and of Italian Heritage.

A \$10.00 application fee must be included with each application.

Kindly forward the application to: Kathryn Grande, Grant Award Chairperson, 10 Chestnut Avenue, Glen Head, NY 11545.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Gift of Sight Scholarship Chairperson, Mary Modica, at 646-438-2838 or Gift of Sight Chairperson, Mary Naccarato at: 516-835-5126.

For information and Tax Deductible Donations, please contact: N.Y.S Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Grand Lodge Foundation, 2101 Bellmore Avenue, Bellmore, NY or visit our website: [www.nyosdia.org](http://www.nyosdia.org).

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**Gift of Sight 2025 Grant Application**

New York State OSDIA Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.  
Biagio J. Isgro, Foundation President. Joanne Spera, N.Y.S. Scholarship Chairperson.  
Mary Naccarato, Gift of Sight Chairperson.

Name:

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: [ ☐ ] Male [ ☐ ] Female

College/Curriculum to which you are applying: \_\_\_\_\_

College Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Entering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address of High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members of OSDIA Should Complete the Lodge Identification Section Below!  
This is not required for other Applicants.

Lodge Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ supports the scholarship application of the above student.

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

President of Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of President: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION ON THIS FORM**

1. Undergraduate awards are for current high school seniors who will begin full-time undergraduate study in the fall 2025 semester. If a student is chosen as a recipient, awards will be made payable to him or her and the institution.
2. The following **MUST** be submitted directly to the Scholarship Chairperson:  
(A) Official transcripts including first semester senior year grades and SAT/ACT scores if available. (B) Official documentation of special need: Legally/Blind or visually impaired. (C) Two letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors. (D) A student essay summarizing educational and career goals, school and community service and a discussion of the significance of your Italian Heritage.
3. Applicant must be a resident of New York State and of Italian Heritage.
4. A \$10.00 application fee, made payable to the: New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. must be included with the application.
5. All Application fees and supporting materials must be sent to: Kathryn Grande, Grant Award Chairperson, **NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2025.**

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: Kathryn Grande, Grant Award Chairperson,  
10 Chestnut Avenue, Glen Head, New York 11545.**



### **NIAF NCCA Christopher Columbus Essay Contest**

Since 1996, NIAF has joined with the National Christopher Columbus Association to sponsor an annual national essay contest on Christopher Columbus. The contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12 in public, private, or parochial schools, or to those who are home schooled. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, gender, or national origin.

For information about the National Columbus Day celebration in Washington, D.C., please visit the National Christopher Columbus Association's website, [www.ChristopherColumbus.org](http://www.ChristopherColumbus.org).

**2024-2025 Topic:** Christopher Columbus's expeditions connecting the Americas and the Old World ushered in a period of global trade and cultural exchange widely recognized as the Columbian Exchange. How did this trans-Atlantic exchange of goods impact the culinary landscape across the world?

#### **Essay Criteria**

Essays must have a word count between 800-1,200 words and will be judged for historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and neatness. In addition to the required length, students must include the following elements in their essay:

- A title page with an original title, name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, school, grade, and word count
- MLA formatted citations and bibliography
- 3 number of print/non-internet sources

#### **Important dates:**

*All submissions must be sent as PDF or Word Document format via e-mail to [education@niaf.org](mailto:education@niaf.org) by the deadline below for consideration.*

**Deadline:** 11:59 PM EST March 15, 2025

**Notification:** June 15, 2025 by 5:00 pm ET

#### **Recognition:**

First, second and third-place national winners are selected after judging on a national level. To qualify for first place, the winner must be able to go to Washington, D.C. to read his or her winning essay at the Christopher Columbus Celebration on October 13, 2025. The first-place national winner will receive a \$1,200 prize in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. in October for the winner and one parent or guardian to attend the NCCA's annual Columbus Day Celebration and read their essay. The second-place national winner receives \$500, and the third-place winner receives \$300.