

Brothers and Sisters,

I'm sharing this great opportunity for our Children to apply for Scholarships. The New York Grand Lodge is offering Scholarships for Undergraduates, Graduates, Grants and Vocational-Trade opportunities. All the paperwork is attached, along with the guidelines. Our District IV Contact is Margaret Forte who happens to be our Lodge Deputy. You can also view everything on the NY State Grade Lodge website, [**NYSOSIA.org**](http://NYSOSIA.org). **Deadline is March 31, 2026.**

Sempre Avanti
President Camille

The New York Grand Lodge Foundation of the Order Sons of Italy in America is pleased to announce its 2026 Scholarship Program for both undergraduate and graduate students. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships to deserving students. These awards, established by Filial Lodges, Districts, or individual donors, are supported by the Grand Lodge Foundation.

In 2025, the Foundation awarded 125 scholarships and 6 grants. This year, we will again distribute 125 scholarships and 6 grants to 77 students at a special District program. Each monetary award will be issued to both the recipient and the academic institution they will attend in Fall 2026. All awardees will be recognized as Student-Member-At-Large members of the Order.

Eligibility and Requirements:

1. Undergraduate Awards: For high school graduates of 2026 planning to start full-time undergraduate study in Fall 2026.

Graduate Awards: For 2026 college graduates beginning graduate studies in Fall 2026.

1. Application Materials (submitted to your District Scholarship Chairperson):
 - Official transcript (high school or college). High school students must also include SAT/ACT scores and class rank.
 - Two recommendation letters from teachers or counselors.
 - A personal essay detailing educational and career goals, involvement in school and community service, and the significance of your Italian heritage.
2. Scholarships are awarded for academic excellence and service. Applicants must have an 85% average or higher.
3. Applicants must be residents of New York State and of Italian-American heritage.
4. Completed applications and all supporting materials must be received by March 31, 2026.
5. A non-refundable \$10 application fee, payable to S.I.A. New York State Grand Lodge Foundation, must be included.

How to Apply:

- Applications are available through local OSIA Lodges or online at nysosia.org.
- Requests and submissions can be sent to:

Scholarship Committee
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.
2101 Bellmore Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710

Scholarship Committee Contacts:

State Chairperson: Joanne Spera, State Co-Chairpersons: Rosemarie Stathes & Margaret Forte

District Chairs:

I: Suffolk County – Joanne Spera

II: Nassau County – Grace Ferrara

III: New York City – Rosemarie Stathes

IV: Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess – Margaret Forte

V: Rockland & Surrounding Area – Maria D'Aguino

VI: Albany, Saratoga, Montgomery, Schenectady – Lisa Serafini

VII: Northern/Central/Southern NY – Josephine Federico

VIII: Western NY (Rochester, Geneva) – Marjorie Focarazzo

Graduate Applications: Angelo Grande

Grant Awards: Kathryn Grande

2026 New York Grand Lodge Foundation Scholarship Checklist

For all Scholarships and Grant Awards
(Students may only submit 1 application for awards)

Official Transcripts including first semester senior year grade

Grant Applicants must have supporting documentation

SAT/ACT scores (if applicable)

Two (2) letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors

A student essay (no more than 350 words) summarizing educational and career goals, school and community service and a discussion of the significance of your Italian heritage

A \$10 application fee, made payable to the NY Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.

Scholarships are awards for academic excellence and service. Students are required to have a MINIMUM AVERAGE OF 85% or above.

Applicant MUST be a resident of New York State and of Italian heritage/lineage.

ALL REQUIRED PAPERWORK, AND APPLICATION FEE MUST BE PRESENTED FOR APPLICATION TO BE PROCESSED.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2026

******* THIS FORM MUST BE INCLUDED WITH ALL PAPERWORK*******

2026 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Joanne Spera
31 Headline Road
Deer Park, NY 11729
Tel: (631) 669-7295
Cell: (631) 495-4251
cyclonejo51@aol.com

District I – Suffolk County
Joanne Spera
31 Headline Road
Deer Park, NY 11729
Tel: (H) (631) 669-7295
Cell: (631) 495-4251
cyclonejo51@aol.com

District II – Nassau County
Grace Ferrara
39 Granger Avenue
Floral Park, NY 11001
Tel: (H) (516) 328-3165
Cell: (516) 527-5336
amazgf@aol.com

District III – New York City
Rosemarie Stathes
51 Twinlawns Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801
Cell: (516) 729-4886
rstatthes@yahoo.com

District IV – Westchester, Putnam & Dutchess
Margaret Forte
83 Lawrence Park Crescent
Bronxville, NY 10708
Tel: (H) (914) 337-1387
Cell: (914) 588-0624
m4tay@aol.com

Grant Award Chairperson
Kathryn Grande
10 Chestnut Avenue
Glen Head, NY 11545
Cell: (516) 618-2982
aigrande@yahoo.com

District V – Rockland & Surrounding Area
Maria D'Aquino
26 Dolphin Road
New City, NY 10956
Cell: (845) 709-4651
mdaq627@gmail.com

District VI – Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga & Montgomery Counties
Lisa Serafini
3093 New Williamsburg Drive
Schenectady, NY 12303
Tel: (H) (518) 355-1286
Cell: (518) 320-6527
lisamalonzi@gmail.com

District VII – Northern, Central & Southern Tiers of NY
Josephine Federico
4966 Driftwood Drive
Liverpool, NY 13088
Tel: (H) (315) 457-5010
Carmine's Cell (315) 657-1062
cfederic39@yahoo.com

District VIII – Western New York, Rochester, Geneva
Marjorie Focarazzo
1248 Calkins Rd.
Rochester, NY 14623
Tel: (C) (585) 749-5346
mafocarazzo@gmail.com

Graduate Scholarship Chairperson
Angelo Grande
10 Chestnut Avenue
Glen Head, NY 11545
Cell: (516) 618-2982
aigrande@yahoo.com

2026 NEW YORK GRAND LODGE FOUNDATION GRANT AWARD APPLICATION

Arthur Spera, Foundation President – Joanne Spera, Scholarship Chairperson

APPLICATION FORM (Please Print or Type)

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/_____
Sex: Circle one (Male/Female) Male Female

College/Curriculum to which you are applying: _____

Name/Address of High School: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS OF OSDIA LODGES MUST COMPLETE THE LODGE IDENTIFICATION SECTION BELOW. THIS IS NOT REQUIRED FOR NON-AFFILIATED APPLICANTS.

Lodge Name & Number: _____ Location: _____

OSDIA Member: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

President of Lodge: _____ President's Signature: _____

DIRECTIONS TO APPLICANT: CHECK ONE: UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATE

Check only if applying for: Italian Studies Returning Student Education Studies Business Undergraduate
 Graduate/Science/Engineering Religious Studies Music/Arts

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 2026 semester.
 - 2) The following **MUST** be submitted directly to the District Scholarship Chairperson for the applicant's lodge or geographic district: (a) Official transcripts **including** first semester senior year grades and SAT/ACT scores. (b) **Two letters of recommendation** from teachers or counselors. (c) A student essay (**no more than 350 words**) summarizing educational and career goals, school and community service and a discussion of the significance of your Italian heritage, (d) Required documentation (I.E.P. statement) for Grant consideration.(e) **Completed checklist**
 - 3) Applicant **MUST** be a resident of New York State and of Italian heritage/lineage.
 - 4) **A \$10 application fee, made payable to the NY Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc., MUST BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION.**
 - 5) **Application, fee and supporting material MUST be sent to the State Grant Chairperson and POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2026.**
 - 6) Awards will be presented at a ceremony, location to be determined, sometime in June/July 2026.

*** Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____

PLEASE CALL THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE AT 516-785-4623 FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Grant Chairperson: **Kathryn Grande** Address: **10 Chestnut Ave. Glen Head, N.Y. 11545**

2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The New York Grand Lodge Foundation of the Order Sons of Italy in American has announced its 2026 Scholarship program for undergraduate and graduate study. The New York Grand Lodge Foundation, since the inception of its scholarship program, has distributed over one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in scholarship awards to deserving students. These scholarships were established by Filial Lodges, Districts or individuals and have been subsidized by the Grand Lodge Foundation.

One hundred twenty five (125) scholarships and six (6) grants were awarded in 2025. At the present time, we will once again distribute one hundred twenty five (125) scholarships and six (6) grants to a total of 77 students at a special District site program. The monetary award each recipient receives is made payable to the individual and the institution he/she will attend in the fall. Every award recipient will become a Student-Member-At-Large member of the Order.

Requirements for Application:

1. **Undergraduate Awards** are for high school graduates of the year 2026 who will begin full-time undergraduate study in the Fall 2026 semester.
The Graduate Awards are for college graduates of the year 2026 who will begin graduate study in the Fall 2026 semester.
2. **The following must be submitted directly to the District Scholarship Chairperson:**
 - Official High School or College transcript, SAT and /or A.C.T. scores and class rank should be included for High School students.
 - Two letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors.
 - A student essay summarizing educational and career goals, school and community service and a discussion of the significance of your Italian heritage.
3. The scholarships are awards for academic excellence and service, and students must have an average of 85% or above.
4. Applicant must be a resident of New York State and of Italian-American heritage.
5. **The applications and all supportive materials MUST BE RECEIVED by March 31, 2026.**
6. **An application fee of \$10 MUST BE INCLUDED.** Check should be made payable to O.S.I.A. New York State Grand Lodge Foundation.

Requests for applications should be directed to local OSIA Lodges or to:

Scholarship Committee
Order Sons of Italy in America
New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.
2101 Bellmore Avenue
Bellmore, NY 11710

Applications are also available on the N.Y.S. OSIA web page at www.nysosia.org.

Members of the OSIA Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee are: Joanne Spera, State Chairperson; Rosemarie Stathes and Margaret Forte, State Co-Chairpersons

District I – Suffolk County – Joanne Spera; **District II** – Nassau County – Grace Ferrara; **District III** – New York City - Rosemarie Stathes; **District IV** – Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties – Margaret Forte; **District V** – Rockland County and surrounding area – Maria D’Aguino; **District VI** – Albany, Saratoga, Montgomery Counties and Schenectady area – Lisa Serafini; **District VII** – New York Northern, Central and Southern tier – Josephine Federico; **District VIII** – Western NY (Rochester, Geneva etc.) – Marjorie Focarazzo; All Graduate school applications – Angelo Grande; All Grant Awards – Kathryn Grande

For additional information, please contact Chairperson Joanne Spera at Cyclonejo51@aol.com or telephone (631) 495-4251.

2026 New York Grand Lodge Foundation Scholarship Application

Arthur Spera, Foundation President – Joanne Spera, Scholarship Chairperson

APPLICATION FORM (Please Print Clearly or Type)

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Sex: Circle one (Male/Female)

College to which you are applying: _____

Curriculum of study _____ Date entering: _____

Name/Address of High School: _____
Graduation Date: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS OF OSDIA LODGES MUST COMPLETE THE LODGE IDENTIFICATION SECTION BELOW. THIS IS NOT REQUIRED FOR NON-AFFILIATED APPLICANTS.

Lodge Name & Number: _____ Location: _____

OSDIA Member: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

President of Lodge: _____ President's Signature: _____

Address of Lodge: _____ Phone#: _____

DIRECTIONS TO APPLICANT: CHECK ONE: UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATE

Check only if applying for: Italian Studies Returning Student Education Studies Business Undergraduate
 Graduate/Science/Engineering Religious Studies Music/Arts

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 2026 semester. Graduate awards are for college graduates who will begin study in the Fall 2026 semester. If chosen as a recipient, awards will be made payable to the **student and the institution, as per Federal Regulations**.
- 2) The following **MUST** be submitted directly to the District Scholarship Chairperson for the applicant's lodge or geographic district: (a) Official transcripts including first semester senior year grades and SAT/ACT scores. (b) Class rank and size of graduating class should be included, if possible. (c) **Two letters of recommendation** from teachers or counselors. (d) A student essay (**no more than 350 words**) summarizing educational and career goals, school and community service and a discussion of the significance of your Italian heritage. (e) Completed Checklist. **ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION MUST BE INCLUDED.**
- 3) Scholarships are awards for academic excellence and service. Students are required to have a **MINIMUM AVERAGE of 85% or above**.
- 4) Applicant **MUST** be a resident of New York State and of Italian heritage/lineage.
- 5) A \$10 application fee, made payable to the **NY Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.**, **MUST BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION**.
- 6) Application, fee and supporting material **MUST** be sent to the **District Scholarship Chairperson** and **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2026**.
- 7) Awards will be presented at a ceremony, location to be determined, sometime in June/July 2026.

*** Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: ____/____/____

PLEASE CALL THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE AT 516-785-4623 FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON

District Chairperson: _____ District: _____

Address: _____

**2026 NEW YORK GRAND LODGE FOUNDATION VOCATIONAL & TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD APPLICATION**

Arthur Spera, Foundation President – Joanne Spera, Scholarship Chairperson

APPLICATION FORM (Please Print or Type)

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Sex: Circle one (Male/Female)

College/Curriculum to which you are applying: _____

_____ Date entering: _____

Name/Address of High School: _____

_____ Graduation Date: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS OF OSDIA LODGES MUST COMPLETE THE LODGE IDENTIFICATION SECTION BELOW. THIS IS NOT REQUIRED FOR NON-AFFILIATED APPLICANTS.

Lodge Name & Number: _____ Location: _____

OSDIA Member: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

President of Lodge: _____ President's Signature: _____

Address of Lodge: _____ Phone#: _____

DIRECTIONS TO APPLICANT: CHECK ONE: **LIBERTY UNDERGRADUATE FRATERNITY** **GRADUATE**

APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE "ALL" INFORMATION ON THIS FORM

- 1) Undergraduate awards are for current high school seniors who will begin full time study at a fully accredited vocational school in the Fall 2026 semester.
- 2) The following **MUST** be submitted directly to the District Scholarship Chairperson for the applicant's lodge or geographic district: (a) Official transcripts including first semester senior year grades. (c) **Two letters of recommendation** from teachers or counselors. (d) A student essay (**no more than 350 words**) summarizing educational and career goals, school and community service and a discussion of the significance of your Italian heritage. (e) **Completed checklist form**
- 3) Applicant **MUST** be a resident of New York State and of Italian heritage/lineage.
- 4) A **\$10 application fee**, made payable to the NY Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc., **MUST BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION**.
- 5) Application fee and supporting material **MUST** be sent to the District Scholarship Chairperson and **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2026**.
- 6) Awards will be presented at a ceremony, location to be determined, sometime in June/July 2026.

*** Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

PLEASE CALL THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE AT 516-785-4623 FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON

District Chairperson: _____ District: _____ Address: _____