

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](https://www.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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:amazgf@aol.com)

### **District III – New York City**

#### **Rosemarie Stathes**

51 Twinlawns Avenue  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
Cell: (516) 729-4886  
[rstathes@yahoo.com](mailto:rstathes@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](mailto:m4tay@aol.com)

### **Grant Award Chairperson**

#### **Kathryn Grande**

10 Chestnut Avenue  
Glen Head, NY 11545  
Cell: (516) 618-2982  
[aigrande@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mafocarazzo@gmail.com)

### **Graduate Scholarship Chairperson**

#### **Angelo Grande**

10 Chestnut Avenue  
Glen Head, NY 11545  
Cell: (516) 618-2982  
[aigrande@yahoo.com](mailto: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)

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:** \_\_\_\_\_ 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](http://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:** ☐ **LIBER UNDERGRADUATE** ☐ **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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_