



AWARD Having a difference shouldn't make a difference in the pursuit of a future career. This scholarship is designed for students that have a learning disability or have experienced medical hardships and have exhibited perseverance and "true grit" throughout their education. This scholarship is open to high school seniors with documented physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities to develop their talents through higher education or pursuing a career by getting their certification through vocational or technical training school/VoTech or a certification/training school. The Texas Elks State Association awards a \$1,000 scholarship annually to one 2026 male and female Texas graduating high school senior

The 2026 scholarship must be used at an accredited junior college, college, university, or trade/vocational school in the United States during the 2026-2027 school year. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution the recipient attends, upon receipt of the enrollment verification form from the school.

APPLICATION DEADLINE Application must be received by **January 30, 2026**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO your local Elks Lodge in Texas. If necessary, use the Lodge Locator at www.elks.org to locate a Texas Elks Lodge near you.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Fill out **all** blanks on the TESA Ellie-Grace True Grit and Perseverance Scholarship Application. Type or print legibly in **black** ink.
- In addition, submit the following information:
 - Obtain a current high school transcript to include with your application. A current high school transcript is **required** for your application to be considered. We do not require an official transcript.
 - Two letters of recommendation: One personal recommendation highlighting this student's perseverance and "true grit" despite their documented physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities. One recommendation from a professional that can document the physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities the student has faced in the past or present. Letters must be signed. (Unsigned copies will not be considered.)
- Submitted applications become property of the Texas Elks State Association. Applications will not be returned to applicants regardless of the outcome of the selection process. All applications will be destroyed after judging. Applications submitted by Lodges for State-level judging will be informed of the contest results in April 2026.

Scholarships will be issued in the form of a Certificate of Award by the Texas Elks State Association, conditioned upon the enrollment of the individual as a full-time student in an accredited junior college, college, university, or trade/vocational school in the United States within the calendar year the scholarship is awarded. This Award will be paid as scholarship funds directly to the school in which the student is enrolled. "Verification of Student Enrollment" and "Special Instructions to the University or College" forms will be provided to the student for use in requesting funds. The award may be used for tuition, books, student fees, laboratory fees (and room & board, if housed on campus). The scholarship will not cover expenses or payments for an academic year begun prior to July 1 of the year in which it is awarded.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO AN ELKS LODGE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30, 2026.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE AUTOFORM APPLICATION

1. Download and save the application to your computer.
2. Open the document with Adobe Acrobat Reader. (Note—other PDF programs may open the file but not allow you to enter or save information. If using a program other than Acrobat, please test that your program will allow you to complete, save, and print your application.) Acrobat Reader DC may be downloaded free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>.
3. Enter the information requested in each highlighted area.
4. The form does NOT have to be completed all at once. You may save and close the form, then re-open it later and complete it.
5. When all information has been entered, print the form and sign/date where signatures are required. APPLICATIONS WITH MISSING OR INCOMPLETE SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
6. Attach all required documentation to the application.
7. Submit your completed application to your local Elks Lodge by the application deadline.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE AUTOFORM APPLICATION MANUALLY

1. Download and save the application to your computer.
2. Open and print the document with a program that will open PDF documents.
3. Complete each area of the application. Be sure to sign/date where signatures are required. APPLICATIONS WITH MISSING OR INCOMPLETE SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
4. Some fields may be set to calculate totals electronically; these fields will have “0.00” printed in them. Please mark through the digits and enter your totals.
5. Attach all required documentation to the application.
6. Submit your completed application to your local Elks Lodge by the application deadline.



Type or print in **black ink**

Applicant's
Name _____

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION: I certify to the accuracy of the facts included in this application.

I give my permission for the Texas Elks State Association and/or its local Lodges to use my name and to quote from my application in news and other publicity media. I understand that this application becomes the property of the Texas Elks State Association and will not be returned.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____
Personal Signature Required—Digital or electronic signature not accepted

Email address _____ Phone number _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT: I/We hereby certify that the information in this application pertaining to my/our child is true and correct and I/we hereby waive any claim against the Texas Elks State Association and its subordinate lodges.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____
Personal Signature Required—Digital or electronic signature not accepted

Email address _____ Phone number _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number(s) _____ email _____

High School Attended _____ City/State _____

SAT Score _____ ACT Score _____ Class Ranking _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Name	Employer	Salary
Father/Guardian _____		

Mother/Guardian _____		
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Number of siblings at home _____ Number of siblings in college _____ Household annual income _____

SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION:

Honors and Awards:

Extracurricular Leadership Activities (Officer in band, FFA, ROTC, clubs, etc.)

Community Service:

Write no more than a 250 word essay that speaks to the student’s personal trials and triumphs in life related to their disability where perseverance and “true grit” were demonstrated. “Recount a time you faced a challenge or a setback in your life, but you showed perseverance and “true grit”. How has this experience molded you into the person you are today?”