2027 PCACA Scholarship

Graduate Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Saturday, May 1, 2027

Scholarship Awards

1st Place — $2,500
2nd Place — $1,500
Potential 3rd Place — $1,000

A third-place scholarship may be awarded at the discretion of Pointe Coupee Autism Community Advocates (PCACA), based on the number of qualified applicants and available scholarship funding.

Scholarship funds may be used toward college or vocational education, therapies, transportation, housing, employment-related needs, or other expenses that support the recipient's transition into life after high school.

Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a high school senior graduating from a Pointe Coupee Parish high school.
- Have an official diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by a physician or school district.
- Be able to provide documentation of the ASD diagnosis if requested.

Application Options

Applicants may choose **ONE** of the following submission options:

Option 1 — Video Submission

Submit a video of **no more than five (5) minutes** discussing the suggested topics listed below. The video must include sound unless the applicant uses an alternative form of communication.

If the student is unable to independently communicate or elaborate on the topics, a teacher, parent, or guardian may assist by interviewing the student or helping the student communicate their responses.

Option 2 — Written Essay

Submit a written essay of approximately **500–1,000 words** discussing the suggested topics listed below.

Applicants who need assistance with writing or communicating their responses may receive help from a teacher, parent, guardian, or other support person. However, the essay should reflect the applicant's own experiences, thoughts, goals, and perspective to the greatest extent possible.

Video and essay submissions will be considered equally. Choosing one format over the other will not affect an applicant's chances of receiving a scholarship.

Applicant Information

Please include the following information with your submission:

- Applicant's name
- High school
- Graduation/awards ceremony date and time
- Address
- Phone number
- Email address
- Parent/guardian's name

Teachers may also nominate a student who meets the scholarship requirements.

Suggested Topics

Applicants may discuss any or all of the following:

- What is it like living with autism?
- What would you like others to know about autism?
- How has autism affected or shaped your life?
- What are your plans after high school?
- What are your goals for the future?
- What accomplishments are you most proud of?
- What challenges have you overcome?
- What people, programs, teachers, or experiences have made a difference in your life?

Selection Process

A panel of **3–5 reviewers** will review all eligible submissions and collectively select the scholarship recipients.

Applicants will be evaluated based on their individual story, goals, accomplishments, and overall submission.

Communication style or ability will not be used to disadvantage an applicant. PCACA recognizes that autism affects communication differently for every individual and encourages applicants to use the submission format that best allows them to share their story.

First and second-place recipients will be selected from the eligible applicants. A third-place scholarship may also be awarded at the discretion of PCACA.

Scholarship recipients will be announced and recognized at their respective school's awards ceremony whenever possible.

Submission Process

All entries must be **received by May 1, 2027**.

Email video or essay submissions to:
pcautismadvocates@gmail.com

OR

Mail a printed essay or USB containing the video submission to:

Pointe Coupee Autism Community Advocates
P.O. Box 252
Livonia, LA 70755