



## **2026 SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA**

- All applications are to be submitted to HCRA by July 1st, 2026.
- All awards from HCRA will be awarded by HCRA.
  - Member associations may create their own scholarship program with their own funding source to award scholarships at the association level.
- An award will not be shared or split by a recipient.

*Eligibility / Active Paddler definition: “Active paddler” means any person who: Is a current 2026 active paddler within an HCRA member club and is valid in the HCRA Database OR has paddled for an HCRA member club within the last two years as evidenced by a person’s paddler history in the HCRA database.*

Degree sought: Trade, Certificate, Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Terminal.

Exclusions – *i.e.*, not eligible:

1. Continuing education units needed to maintain professional licenses for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lawyers, planners, architects, realtors, trades, etc.; or
2. Conferences and seminars.

Student classification:

- Full-time, as defined by the school; or
- Part-time, any number of credit hours, but able to demonstrate continuous enrollment.

Type of learning:

- Traditional Campus, Distance Learning, Online or Virtual College, or Combination.

*Eligible applicant awards are approved by the scholarship committee. All awards to be presented to applicant winners during the 2026 HCRA State Championships. Previous awardees may apply again annually.*

## How to Apply:

1. Application (via Google form/attach media file).  
[2026 HCRA SCHOLARSHIP GOOGLE DOC LINK](#)
2. Submit a written essay OR video/slideshow presentation answering the 2026 topic questions.
3. Submit your transcript AND proof of acceptance from an accredited educational institution.
4. Letter of recommendation (which must be uploaded at the same time as your media) from either:
  - A. Current or past paddling coach
  - B. Association officer or official (for volunteers)

If you have any questions or need assistance, please email:  
[hcrascholarship@gmail.com](mailto:hcrascholarship@gmail.com)

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## **2026 Topic: MERGING OUR HISTORY WITH OUR FUTURE**

**REQUIRED:** Please submit an essay OR a 2-3 minute video OR a slide show presentation to answer the following: *(no video or pictures of the scholarship candidate is necessary since we use a blind scoring method)*

1. How did your canoe association get started? What is the story behind your own canoe club's birth (who, what, when, where, why and how)?
2. How would you like to see HCRA support its canoe associations and club members in the future?
3. How are you currently making a difference in the paddling community, and how do you envision continuing to impact and inspire the next generation of HCRA paddlers?

### **Deadline Dates to keep in mind:**

**July 1 – Deadline to submit applications**

**July 2-21 – Committee reviews applications**

**July 25 – Committee recommends awardees to HCRA BoD**

**August 1 – Present scholarships at HCRA State Championship**