



2026 Scholarship Application Instructions

Application Due April 1, 2026

PURPOSE

JASC's scholarships are grounded in our mission of community-centered care, service, and the preservation of Japanese American history and legacy. We recognize that community involvement takes many forms—whether through cultural exploration, caregiving, advocacy, creative work, volunteering, or learning.

This application is designed to give applicants space to reflect authentically on their experiences, values, and future goals, rather than fitting into a narrow definition of involvement. Applicants do **not** need to be Japanese American or have prior involvement with JASC to apply.

We thank the many families and individuals who have donated to fund the scholarships and recognize the people for whom our scholarships have been named, both current scholarships and prior: Sam Fukaye Scholarship; Fred Toguri Scholarship; William T. Yamamoto Scholarship; Frank T. Kambara Scholarship; Jean E. Taketoshi Scholarship; John (Jun) Iwaoka Scholarship; Dr. Newton K. Wesley Scholarship; Taketo (Tak) Tomiyama Scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must meet each of the following requirements to receive a scholarship from the JASC:

1. Applicants must be enrolled on a full or part-time basis in an accredited school of advanced learning within the 2026-27 academic year.
2. Applicants need not be of Japanese ancestry and need not be a citizen of the United States.
3. Applicants must submit all the required documents listed in the application form to be eligible for consideration.
4. Awards are distributed to the student upon the applicant providing JASC with proof of enrollment at an accredited school of advanced learning.
5. Applicants or their families must have a current JASC membership. Memberships for students cost \$45 (<https://www.jasc-chicago.org/become-a-member/>)
6. JASC scholarship winners are limited to receiving a total of two (2) awards in their lifetime, once for undergraduate and once for graduate studies. Previous JASC scholarship winners applying for a second award must demonstrate sustained service to others and exceptional community service.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used in evaluating scholarship applications:

1. Community involvement and service to others. What impact has the applicant made and how have they been impacted by their community involvement and service work?
2. Academic studies show a deep commitment to pursuing education with determination and continual growth. Grades will be considered as a measure of the student's interest and seriousness in the pursuit of higher education. The student's coursework and course levels will also be reviewed as an indication of interests and motivation.
3. Demonstration of Japanese American values of building community, addressing injustices, and sharing cultural and historic lessons in pursuit of improving society.



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Deadline: *Application and transcript must be submitted by Thursday, April 1, 2026, 11:59 PM*

Japanese American Service Committee
Scholarship Committee
5700 N. Lincoln Ave
Chicago, IL 60659

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by emailing a PDF file of materials to programs@jasc-chicago.org. Reference letters may be emailed directly to the same email address.

Applicants will be notified of application results on or around April 15, 2026. Scholarship Committee decisions are final.

Award recipients should plan to attend the award ceremony at JASC's spring fundraising event Cranes and Cocktails on **April 30, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. Families and/or friends are invited and welcome to attend.

Contact JASC with questions: Jennifer Trautvetter
jtrautvetter@jasc-chicago.org
tel: 773.275.0097 x228

Required Materials Checklist

- Community, Service, and Leadership Experiences Reflection
- Connection to JASC Short Response
- Essay
- References
 - Included with application
 - Requested and will be sent directly to JASC
- High School or College Transcript (official preferred, unofficial accepted)
 - Included with application
 - Requested and will be sent directly to JASC



2026 Scholarship Application Form

Application Due April 1, 2026

Contact Information

Name _____ Pronouns _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

Email Address (not school associated account) _____

JASC Membership (check one) Individual Parents/Family

Education

Current school _____ (City/State) _____

Expected graduation date current school _____ Class of _____

College/University to attend in Fall 2026 _____ (City/State) _____

Academic Major/Expected Degree _____

Expected graduation date _____ Class of _____

Prior degrees received include:

Graduate of _____ (City/State) _____

Degree Earned _____

References

Reference 1 Name and Relationship _____

Reference 2 Name and Relationship _____

Anything else you want the review committee to know:

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____



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The following materials should be attached to your application form.

Community, Service, and Leadership Experiences Reflection

For up to **3 experiences**, please briefly describe:

- 1) What you did and your role(s)
- 2) Why this experience mattered to you and
- 3) What you learned about community, service, or responsibility

Connection to JASC

Short Response – 250 words max

Choose **one** that applies to you:

If you have been involved with JASC:

Describe a program, experience, or relationship at JASC that shaped you or your understanding of community.

If you are new to JASC:

What drew you to apply for a JASC scholarship, and what aspects of JASC's mission or work resonate with you?

Essay

One-page essay on **one** of the prompts listed below: (choose one)

Prompt 1: Community & Care

JASC's work is rooted in community-centered care—supporting individuals, families, and elders through connection and service. Describe a moment, experience, or responsibility that shaped how you understand care for others or your community. How has this influenced the way you show up in your family, school, or community today and in the future?

Prompt 2: Legacy, History, and Responsibility

The Japanese American experience reflects broader themes of resilience, injustice, and responsibility to remember and protect community histories. Reflect on a historical event, cultural tradition, or community story—Japanese American or otherwise—that has influenced your values or worldview. Why does this history matter today, and how does it shape your sense of responsibility moving forward?

Prompt 3: Service & Impact

Service can be visible or invisible, formal or informal. Describe a way you have contributed to a community you care about. What challenges did you face, what impact did you see (or hope to see), and how did the experience change you?