

2026 Badge of Honor College Scholarship Program

Wheelhouse Credit Union is pleased to support the educational efforts of children of first responders in San Diego County through its 2026 Badge of Honor College Scholarship Program. This year, we will recognize and reward five (5) exceptional graduating high school seniors who excelled during their high school career and demonstrate traits of leadership, a commitment to public service, and a desire to make an impact on their schools and communities.

Five (5) students will each be awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Eligibility and Requirements

- **WHO MAY ENTER/ELIGIBILITY.** Each applicant must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the 2026 Badge of Honor College Scholarship:
 1. Have a parent, grandparent or legal guardian who is an active member of law enforcement, fire protection service, healthcare or EMT in San Diego County.
 2. Be a “Class of 2026” graduating high school senior in San Diego County.
 3. Have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or better, based on a 4.0 scale.
 4. Acceptance by, or plans to attend, an accredited college/university on a full-time basis beginning Fall 2026.
 5. Submit a completed and signed application including all requested documents by **April 30, 2026, at 11:59:59 PDT. Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- **HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.** Eligible students may complete the official application and submit supporting documents, in PDF format, online by visiting WheelhouseCU.com/Scholarships by **11:59:59 PDT, Thursday, April 30, 2026.**

Alternative Method of Entry (AMOE). You may also submit your completed application and supporting documents to one of our four (4) branch locations or mail it to:

**Wheelhouse Credit Union
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 719099
San Diego, CA 92171-9099**

All AMOE applications must be received by **11:59:59 PDT, Thursday, April 30, 2026**, to qualify.

- **SELECTION PROCESS.** The Wheelhouse Scholarship Committee will determine the awards. The awards selection is at Wheelhouse’s sole and complete discretion. Wheelhouse reserves the right to make changes to the Scholarship Program at any time and all decisions will be final.
- Notification will be mailed to the scholarship recipients shortly after the decision, along with an invitation to be recognized at the presentation ceremony.

- **Publicity.** Each scholarship recipient will be required to submit a photo of themselves, which may be used for public relations purposes. A signed model release form must be received with the photo submission to be eligible for the award. **Please note:** if you are under 18, your parent or legal guardian must provide consent by signing the model release form.
- This scholarship is a one-time award and will be payable no later than **July 31, 2026**. Each recipient's award check will be presented directly to the recipient during the presentation ceremony. If the recipient is not able to attend, other arrangements will be made to deliver the award.
- Wheelhouse Credit Union employees, members of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee, and their family members are not eligible to participate in this program.

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____
(Include City, State & Zip)

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Member: Yes ____ No ____

Please note: if you are under 18, a parent or legal guardian must also provide consent to these Scholarship rules.

Parent/Guardian Information

Name: _____ Employer: _____

Role/Title: _____

Member: Yes ____ No ____

Academic Information

High School: _____ City: _____

Cumulative High School GPA _____ SAT Score _____ ACT Score _____

College to which you will attend: _____
(If known, otherwise indicate To Be Determined)**School Activities & Community Service**

List your participation in school activities and community service involvement. Provide dates, number of hours spent on each project/activity and offices held.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Honors & Awards

List any top honors and/or awards you have received (include dates, i.e. 2024, 2025, etc.)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Work Experience

List work experience (include company names, job titles, dates of employment & average weekly hours worked)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Letters of Recommendation

Upload letters of recommendation from two sources not related to you in pdf format. Please provide names and addresses for each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Applicant Authorization

In consideration of participating in Wheelhouse Credit Union's **2026 Badge of Honor College Scholarship Program**, I, _____, certify that all information provided on this application and all supporting documents are true and correct. I understand that false or misleading information will result in my application being disqualified. If selected as a scholarship recipient, I give full consent for the use of my name and photo to be used for publicity purposes. I understand that the decision of the Wheelhouse Scholarship Committee is final.

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian (Please Print)

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Essay

Part 1:

Write a short autobiography and tell us about your parent/grandparent/legal guardian describing their role as a first responder. Additionally, please describe what receiving a scholarship would mean to you and your educational pursuits.

Part 2: (This essay should contain approximately 500 - 700 words).

Describe a specific instance where your parent/grandparent/legal guardian's actions made a tangible difference in someone's life. Do you see yourself following in their footsteps, or forging a different path inspired by their dedication?

Please include your typewritten essay and autobiography with this application.

Final Checklist

- ☐ Completed application
- ☐ Typewritten essay and autobiography
- ☐ Letters of recommendation
- ☐ Official high school transcripts
- ☐ Applicant signed authorization on page 3

Submit this completed application, with all supporting documents by mailing it to:

Wheelhouse Credit Union
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 719099
San Diego, CA 92171-9099

You may also submit your application and documents online. Visit WheelhouseCU.com/scholarships.

Submissions must be received by **April 30, 2026**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.