



2025 Hospitality & Culinary College Scholarship Application

Introduction

The Lodging Association of the Florida Keys is proud to offer scholarships to local students who are pursuing higher education and have demonstrated exceptional leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to the hospitality and tourism industry. This scholarship aims to support and encourage the next generation of leaders in the Florida Keys' hospitality sector.

The Lodging Association will award one **\$6,000** scholarship to a qualified senior graduating from one of the Florida Keys high schools who enrolls in a college course of studies in the culinary or hospitality field. Consideration will also be given to a local student who enrolls in a hospitality or culinary program at the College of the Florida Keys.

The scholarship will be paid to the student upon submitting proof of enrollment in an accredited college or university hospitality studies or culinary program. Disbursements are \$1,500 annually for four years, provided that the student maintains at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent and submits a letter or class registration form from the school to show that he or she is enrolled in a hospitality related course of studies for the year in which the scholarship amount will be paid.

Applicants for the scholarship shall submit the following:

1. Fully completed application form.
2. Letter of recommendation from one or more of the applicant's teachers.
3. Letter of recommendation from one or more employer or other nonrelated local resident.
4. High School or FKCC transcript showing cumulative GPA
5. A 500-750 word essay on why the applicant is pursuing a hospitality/culinary course of studies and why hospitality is important to the Florida Keys.
6. An acceptance letter from your intended school of enrollment.

Applications missing any required documentation will not be considered.

Applications must be filled out completely for consideration.

Please submit your typed application by email along with all required paperwork by the due date.

Applications must be received by **May 7, 2025** - Late applications will not be considered

A personal interview may be required.

Eligibility Requirements: To be considered for the Lodging Association of the Florida Keys Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **Residency:** Applicant must be a permanent resident of the Florida Keys.
2. **Education:** Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited institution for the upcoming academic year.
3. **Field of Study:** Students must be pursuing a degree in hospitality, tourism, business or related fields but the Lodging Association reserves the right to waive this requirement in exceptional circumstances.
4. **Academic Performance:** Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
5. **Community Involvement:** Applicant must demonstrate a history of community service or leadership roles.

6. **Essays & Recommendations:** Applicants must submit a written personal statement and two letters of recommendation as detailed in the introduction.

Application Instructions: Please carefully review and follow the instructions below to complete your application.

1. **Personal Information**

- Full Name: _____
- Date of Birth: _____
- Address: _____
- Phone Number: _____
- Email Address: _____
- High School Name: _____
- Grade Level: _____
- Expected Graduation Date: _____

2. **Academic Information**

- Current GPA: _____
- Intended Degree Program: _____
- Name of College/University: _____
- College/University Address: _____

3. **Community Service & Leadership Experience**

- Please list any volunteer or leadership activities you have been involved in (include organization, role, and duration):

4. **Personal Statement (500-750 words)**

Write a personal statement that addresses the following questions:

- Why are you pursuing a career in the hospitality or tourism industry?
- What goals do you hope to achieve in your education and career?
- How have your experiences and values shaped who you are today?
- What do you plan to contribute to the hospitality and tourism industry in the Florida Keys in the future?

5. **Letter(s) of Recommendation**

Please submit at least two letters of recommendation; one from a teacher or mentor at school and one from a nonrelated employer or community leader who can speak to your character, academic performance, and leadership potential. The letter should be sent directly to the scholarship committee by the recommender.

6. **Transcripts**

Please submit an official high school or college transcript with your application.

7. **Submission**

All applications and supporting materials must be submitted by **May 7, 2025.**

Scholarship Award Details (one)

- Amount: **\$6,000**
- Number of Awards: 1
- Award Notification: Applicants will be notified by their high school's award night.
- The scholarship will be paid directly to the recipient's institution to cover tuition and related academic expenses.

Additional Information

- Scholarships are non-renewable.
- The decision of the selection committee is final.
- The Lodging Association of the Florida Keys & Key West reserves the right to adjust the award amounts or number of recipients based on the applications received.

Certification & Agreement

I certify that all information provided in this application is complete and accurate. I understand that providing false information may result in disqualification from consideration. I also agree that if awarded a scholarship, I will allow the Lodging Association of the Florida Keys to use my name and photograph for promotional purposes.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email Completed Applications to: ExecutiveOffice@keyslodging.org