

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How can guidance counselors help?**

A: Many of our past awardees have been encouraged to apply by their guidance counselors. If you know of a student with exceptional character, we encourage you to suggest the scholarship and help the student understand why they may qualify. So many of our Maine high school students practice character in their day to day activities throughout the year.

**Q: Who can apply?**

A: Only students who meet the following requirements will be considered.

1. A student must live in Maine and attend high school in Maine. We do not accept applications from those living outside of Maine or attending high school outside of Maine.
2. Students must be graduating from high school between January and June 2024.
3. Students must be going on to an accredited post-secondary institution after graduating from high school. A student considering a “gap year” between high school and a post-secondary education must apply during their senior year of high school and must have committed to a postsecondary institution.

**Q: What are the criteria for selection?**

A: Mainely Character Scholarships are awarded to the individuals who best demonstrate these four core principles of character:

* Concern: Communicating compassion and a caring attitude toward others.
* Responsibility: Demonstrating commitment and conviction through your actions.
* Integrity: Being truthful and trustworthy to oneself and others.
* Courage: Persisting through difficulty, distress, or fear in order to achieve something important.

In the application a student must describe THEIR character in THEIR own words, with specific examples of how they demonstrate the principles.

**Q: What is the application deadline for 2025?**

A: The online application must be submitted by March 1, 2025; if mailed, the application should be postmarked by March 1.

**Q: How can students submit applications?**

A: There are three ways to apply.

1. Apply online by completing the form at [www.mainelycharacter.org](http://www.mainelycharacter.org).
2. Download the application from [www.mainelycharacter.org](http://www.mainelycharacter.org). Print, complete, convert to a PDF and attach to an email sent to info@mainelycharacter.org.
3. Download the application from [www.mainelycharacter.org](http://www.mainelycharacter.org). Print, complete, and mail to Mainely Character, P.O. Box 11131, Portland, Maine 04103. Postmarked by Mar 1, 2025

**Q: What kind of supporting documents can be submitted with an application?**

A: Letters of recommendation or other supporting documents **should not** be submitted with the application. A student may provide a link to a website, in the final question in the application, if this website relates to a student’s character.

**Q: Who should be listed as references?**

**References should be individuals who can speak to and support the examples of character described in the application.**

Students should use people who can speak to and support the examples of character described in the application. We discourage using relatives unless there are extenuating reasons to do so. Students only need to provide contact information for references; reference letters should not be sent with the application. References for scholarship finalists will be contacted directly.

**Q: What happens after the applications are submitted?**

A: The application review process begins in early March, with all board members involved in reviewing and scoring applications. After several readings and reviews, we identify a group of 30+ semi-finalists. We contact references for these applicants by mid-April. We then select a smaller group of finalists for interviews. The interviews are conducted in early May. In most cases, recipients are announced at their high school’s senior awards event.