

Student & Families FAQs

What is the Carson Scholarship?

The Carson Scholarship is a \$1,000 college scholarship awarded to students who demonstrate academic excellence and a strong commitment to service.

Do I need to provide financial information?

No. The Carson Scholars Program is solely merit-based and does not collect financial information from applicants. It is completely free for schools, applicants and awardees.

What does the application process look like?

After being nominated by their school, students must complete and submit an online application by the specified deadline. The application consists of “get to know me” questions, descriptions of service activities, an essay, and submission of a current year report card and a minimum of one teacher recommendation letter.

My school won't have report cards available before the application deadline. What do I do?

You may submit a current year progress report (if available), a letter from your school stating your current classes and grades, or a screenshot from an online grading portal clearly showing your name and the date or school year.

What do I receive if I win?

When students are first named Carson Scholars, their \$1,000 college scholarship award is invested by the Carson Scholars Fund to earn interest until high school graduation. Students also receive an Olympic-sized medal, a certificate of achievement and an invitation to a regional awards banquet.

What is the difference between a first-time or new Carson Scholar and a recognized Carson Scholar?

First-time/new Carson Scholars are those who've won the scholarship in the current year and are just being named Carson Scholars. Recognized Carson Scholars are students who've previously won the scholarship and have chosen to renew their status as Carson Scholars to be recognized for their continued accomplishments. Recognized scholars do not receive additional monetary awards but do receive a pin to add to their medal, a certificate and invitation to an awards banquet.

How can I become a Recognized Carson Scholar?

Applications are emailed to all Carson Scholars each fall. If you don't see the email by November, contact us!

What are the eligibility requirements for the recognition program for current scholars?

Students must have a minimum 3.75 GPA for the current school year and be actively involved in service activities. New for 2026 is a 3-hour minimum service requirement to be eligible for recognition.

How do I receive my scholarship funds?

Your funds are invested and earning interest until you graduate from high school. At the time of graduation, you'll receive an email with access to a payout request form. You'll need to complete that form to request your scholarship funds be sent to your school. All scholarship funds are sent directly to colleges/universities; funds cannot be disbursed to students.