



“Maximum Independence Scholarship”

Recognizing the ever-increasing need for financial assistance to help defray the cost of higher education, Goodwill Industries of Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas, Inc. (GoodwillSONT) will be awarding six scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each in Spring 2026 to high school seniors. Our mission is to help people with disabilities and disadvantages achieve maximum independence; it is our hope that with our financial assistance, a few select high school seniors who aspire to continue their education can indeed achieve that dream.

This scholarship is to be used towards tuition/class fees, books, and supplemental supplies that are required by class only (proof must be provided by school); it will not be used towards parking fees, library fees, etc. It is also to be used for Fall Semester 2026, unless another agreement is reached between GoodwillSONT and said applicant. Any unused portion will be returned to GoodwillSONT. If in the event that the student drops out of school, any unused portion will be returned to GoodwillSONT.

I. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

1. Be a senior in high school within the Goodwill Industries of Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas, Inc. service area:
 - a. Oklahoma Counties: Caddo (south of E1130 Road only), Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Stephens, Tillman.
 - b. Texas Counties: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Wichita, Wilbarger.
2. Be enrolling as a first-time student in a vocational-technical school/trade school or college, pursuing a certificate or degree, with a minimum of 12 credits per semester.
3. Have a documented 15 hours of community service during Senior Year of high school by applicant's service supervisor (be it with Goodwill, church, animal shelter, homeless shelter, local elementary school, etc.).
4. Have a documented disability, or a demonstrated financial need, or both. (It does NOT need to be both; it can be one or the other).
5. Be a U.S. citizen or legal resident of the United States.
6. Be able to take a tour of GoodwillSONT's facilities (to be set up between GoodwillSONT and said recipient).

Recipients should be able to serve in the Goodwill Ambassador Program, as individual limits allow. This could consist of attending a Goodwill event, submitting note of gratitude to be used on social media, supporting Goodwill on Facebook, coordinating a donation drive, etc.

II. Application Procedures

*All sections of the scholarship application **must** be completed, and be **postmarked** by the deadline of April 17, 2026, 5pm. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.*

Please complete and submit the application (below), as well as the following documents:

1. A copy of high school transcript.
2. One page minimum Personal Statement (typed; 1.5 space; 3 **sides of paper** maximum) explaining your personal interests, your family background, your plan of study, why you want to further your education, and what this scholarship means to you.
3. A letter from the applicant's Community Service supervisor, providing proof of the full 15 volunteer or community service hours. This letter must be a one-page typed document, and state the name of the organization, the type of community service performed, a review of work performed, when it was performed, and supervisor's contact information. *
4. Two letters of reference, one personal and one academic, whom can testify to your worthiness of receiving this scholarship. Neither letter can be written by someone related to you, nor can the letters cannot be written by the same person. *
5. For consideration as a disabled applicant, please provide proof of disability from a recognized state, federal, or medical/psychological authority, in addition to the items in 1 through 4 above.
6. For consideration as an applicant in financial need, a copy of your (or your family's) previous year's Federal Tax Return, or a copy of the current year FAFSA, in addition to the items in 1 through 4 above.

**Reference letters and volunteer letter cannot be written by the same person.*

III. Selection of Recipients

The selection of the scholarship recipients will be based on the applicant's disability, financial need, extracurricular activities, leadership skills, and participation in community activities. All scholarships and other financial aid already awarded will be taken into consideration when determining eligibility.

IV. Notification of Scholarships

Recipients of the Goodwill Maximum Independence Scholarships will be notified via email initially, and also via formal letter delivered by the United States Postal Service. In addition, denials will be sent via USPS as well. Notification will occur no later than Friday, May 1, 2026.

Awarding of scholarships will take place at our annual Banquet in Lawton, OK, on Monday, May 19th. Recipients must be able to attend the banquet (stipend will be provided by Goodwill for mileage; banquet includes meal and dessert; Goodwill allots five tickets **total** per scholarship recipient – this includes the recipient). Scholarship checks will be mailed directly to the vocational-technical school/trade school or college in August 2026.

Name _____



"MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE SCHOLARSHIP"

PERSONAL DATA: *(Please print or type)*

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

NAME:

LAST FIRST M.I.

HOME ADDRESS:

NUMBER STREET CITY ST ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: (____) _____

CITIZEN
STATUS:

☐ U.S. Citizen

☐ *Eligible Non-Citizen

(*Must provide copy of Alien Registration Card: I-151 or I-551)

Name _____

CURRENT AND FUTURE EDUCATION:

High School attended: _____

Anticipated school of attendance: _____

What type of certificate are you pursuing?

List other scholarships, external aid, or financial aid that you have received, are currently receiving, or will be receiving this academic year; include amounts of each:

Name _____

QUESTIONS: (Please attach any additional sheets as needed with your full name in the top right corner.)

1. What awards or recognitions have you received? List those achievements, as well as any that are specifically related to your area of academic interest.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name _____

2. Please describe any extra-curricular activities, related to high school or otherwise (ie, church work, employment, clubs, etc.).

[illegible]

Name _____

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that all the information included in this application is true and complete. I hereby grant permission to Goodwill Industries of Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas, Inc. to verify such information.

Signature

Date

Return the application, by April 17, 2026, 5pm, to the Goodwill Scholarship Committee by mailing to:

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas, Inc.
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
4443 NW Cache Road
Lawton, OK 73505

All applications are to be stapled or paper-clipped; do not bind them in any manner, or submit them in a folder. Any inquiries or questions may be directed to the Scholarship Committee at 580-699-5580, extension 3011.

GoodwillSONT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, nationality, religion, sexuality, or disability with respect to access, employment programs, or services. Inquiries or complaints concerning these matters should be brought to the attention of:

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas, Inc.
ATTN: Human Resources Department
1210 Summit Avenue
Lawton, OK 73501