



EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS.

2026 Community Partnership Details


Dear Community Contacts,

We are so grateful to be partnering with you to help empower young agricultural leaders in your community. Your dedication to the future of agriculture does not go unnoticed.


We understand how important it is to attract high achieving and passionate students for this scholarship. We have compiled various resources to help you make the most out of the scholarship partnership, while reaching the intended scholars.

Here is what is included:

- Annual Scholarship Timeline - Designed to help keep you on target to reach all deadlines.
- Important Deadlines - Stay organized with this outline of deadlines. It includes links to all forms that will need turned into AFA.
- Funding Details - This outlines all of the cost expected from the community supporters and AFA's match.
- Scholarship Policy - Better understand who qualifies for the scholarship
- Interview Questions & Score Sheet - Designed to help guide your interview process. Feel free to make it your own!
- Scholarship Evaluation Rubric - This tool will help you fairly and honestly judge applicants. It features all of the criteria involved in the scholarship process.
- Marketing Tool Kit - All of the tools and resources you need to get the scholarship out to your community through fliers and social media.

 816-472-4232

 www.agfuture.org

 11500 NW Ambassador Drive, Suite 306 Kansas City, MO 64153



Annual Scholarship Timeline

To get started

- AFA's scholarship application became available online at www.agfuture.org/scholarships on September 1, 2025.
- Request any additional resources or support from AFA staff (letterhead, donor ledgers, etc.).
- Begin/continue raising scholarship funds.

January 2026

- Utilize the resources shared to market the scholarship and value of AFA with school counselors, ag teachers, principals, superintendents, parents and local agribusinesses.

February 2026

- Continue promoting the scholarship within community.
- Complete the Community Partnership Agreement Form by February 9, 2026. [Form](#).
- AFA will send an account balance sheet.

March 2026

- Continue promoting the scholarship within community.
- AFA's application deadline for national scholarship consideration is March 5, 2026. All community deadlines are also on or before March 5. All students who apply will be eligible for both the AFA National Leader and Academic Scholarship, as well as community consideration. Communities will be contacted if their candidates are also being considered for national awards.
- Begin reviewing applications through the online portal.
- Finalize fundraising and mail funds to AFA with an electronic copy of donor ledger by March 31, 2026.
- AFA will send donor acknowledgement letters after receiving funds and donor ledgers. Email addresses are encouraged!

April 2026

- Submitted applications should be reviewed before April 1, 2026.
- Conduct interviews with applicants. Work toward selecting final recipients by May 1, 2026.

May 2026

- Select scholarship recipient by May 1, 2026. Send AFA the names of your selected recipients.
- Recognize scholarship recipients and community donors in local community (newspapers, scholarship banquets, commencement ceremonies).
- If community scholars are considered for national awards, coordinators will be contacted prior to interviews, which will be conducted in May.

June 2026

- AFA will send congratulations letters and online conference registration information to scholars. Recipients must complete the information and return it by June 30, 2026.

September 2026

- AFA advises each student requests the first \$1,600 scholarship award by September 1, 2026 at www.agfuture.org/scholarships/getting-your-scholarship-money
- Students will receive their first email communication from AFA with detailed information about the 2026 AFA Leaders Conference by October 2026.

October 2026

- AFA will send all scholars electronic information outlining preparations for Conference attendance.

November 2026

- Scholars attend AFA Leaders Conference on November 12 - 15, 2026.
- After successful completion of the AFA Leaders Conference, students can request the second \$1,600 scholarship award by February 1, 2027 at www.agfuture.org/scholarships/getting-your-scholarship-money



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Important Deadlines

-  ● **February 9, 2026**
Community Partnership Agreement Form Due. [Click here for form.](#)
-  ● **March 6, 2026**
AFA scholarship application deadline
-  ● **March 31, 2026**
Finalize fundraising. Mail funds to AFA with electronic copy of donor ledger.
-  ● **April 1, 2026**
Review submitted applications through the online portal.
-  ● **May 1, 2026**
Make final scholarship recipient selection and notify AFA.
-  ● **June 30, 2026**
Scholars must complete online conference registration information.
-  ● **September 1, 2026**
AFA advises students to request their first \$1,600 scholarship award.
-  ● **November 6-9, 2026**
Students attend AFA Leaders Conference in Kansas City.
-  ● **February 1, 2026**
Students should have requested the remaining scholarship funds by this date.



Indicates important dates for community contacts.



Indicates important dates for scholarship recipients.



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Funding Details

Scholarship Eligibility: High school senior or college student that meets the local community scholarship criteria and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in an agriculture related field. *Scholars must attend AFA Leaders Conference to receive their scholarship award.*

Cost per Scholar				
	Academic Scholarship	Conference Fees	Scholarship Administration	Total
Community	\$1,600	\$625	\$225	\$2,450
AFA	\$1,600	\$625		\$2,225
Total	\$3,200	\$1,250	\$225	\$4,675

Delegate Eligibility: ONLY receive funding to attend Conference. No additional scholarship award. Students can be high school seniors, not selected for scholarships, or current college students that have attended a previous AFA Leaders Conference.

Total Cost per Delegate (Conference ONLY, no scholarship funds) - \$1,250	
Community Funds	AFA Match
\$625 - Conference Fee	\$625 - Conference Fee

Scholarship Policy

- Scholars must attend the entire AFA Leaders Conference in the year awarded to receive scholarship funds; particularly AFA's match.
- The AFA scholarship is a one-time scholarship.
- Scholars must request funds by providing a copy of university tuition, fees, or books (if billed through the university) to AFA.
- The AFA scholarship will not cover room and board expenses.
- Scholars must request funds while enrolled as a full-time students.
- Funds are dissolved after completing a bachelor's degree; if not requested before graduation, or if proof of balance owed is insufficient.
- Student must continue to meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - Pursue a bachelor's degree
 - Study agriculture or related field
 - Remain in good academic standing with the university
 - Maintain full-time class status

Interview Questions & Score Sheet

For each question, rank the candidate's response on a scale of 1 to 5 (1=poor, 5=excellent). Record the final score above out of 50 possible points.

- We've reviewed your application, but tell us a more about yourself. (Score: ____/5)
- Why did you choose a career in the agriculture and food industry? (Score: ____/5)
- What career goals have you set for yourself and why? (Score: ____/5)
- What skills do you possess that make you stand out amongst your peers? (Score: ____/5)
- What are your goals for self-improvement, if any? (Score: ____/5)
- How do you determine or evaluate success? (Score: ____/5)
- Of all your activities in school, which one has been most beneficial to you and why? (Score: ____/5)
- Of all your activities in the community, which one has been most beneficial to you and why? (Score: ____/5)
- Why should we choose you as the recipient of this scholarship? (Score: ____/5)
- To receive the scholarship, you must attend the AFA Leaders Conference in Kansas City in November. How do you plan to make the most of your conference experience? (Score: ____/5)

Total Score: ____/50



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Scholarship Evaluation Rubric

Minimum Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Requirements • Pursuing a non-graduate degree in a field related to food, agriculture and/or natural resources • Committed to AFA Leaders Conference • GPA of 2.5 or above • Able to use the scholarship for only tuition, fees and/or books
Academic	5%: 5 points possible Based on GPA scale as follows: ≥ 3.8 = 5 points 3.3 - 3.79 = 3 points 3.0 - 3.29 = 1 point
Community Service	12%: 12 Points: Participation, scored per activity: Activity 1 = 4 points Activity 2 = 4 points Activity 3 = 4 points
Leadership & Organizational Involvement	15%: 15 points possible 3 Points: Participation; scored per organization Organization 1 = 1 point Organization 2 = 1 point Organization 3 = 1 point 12 Points: Leader Role; scored for 3 organizations Officer = 4 points Committee Role = 2 points
Work/Internship Experience	12%: 12 points possible 12 Points: Work /Internship Experience Experience 1 = 4 points Experience 2 = 4 points Experience 3 = 4 points Personal Statement 26%: 26 points possible
Personal Statement	Personal Statement 26%: 26 points possible
Talent Statement	
General Factors Resilience & Past Involvement	
Interview	
Scoring Total	100 points

Promotional Tool Kit

Let us help you promote your community scholarship. Below is a guideline to help you get the word out within your community. All assets can be found in the scholarship toolkit. Download and share to reach the best students in your community!

Flyer

Suggested Use: Print off and share around local schools, hand out to FFA Chapters, Share at 4-H club meetings

Date: End of January

- 2 PDF flyers to print and share

Email

Suggested Use: Send out an email to local FFA and 4-H leaders to encourage them to share the scholarship with their students.

Date: End of January

- 1 Graphic to include in an email
- 2 Message templates in a word document

Social Media

Suggested Use: Share this graphic & caption on your socials. Better yet, encourage parents, ag teachers and 4-H Leaders to share.

Where to share: Instagram & Facebook

Date: around February 6

- 6 Social Media Graphics options
- Drafted Captions to pair with graphics in Word Document

Scholarship Certificate

- Fillable PDF Graphic to share with scholarship winner

Scholarship Announcement News Release

Suggested Use: Fill in the correct information and send to your local news paper.

Date: Soon after selection is made on May 1

- A template news release word document to edit and share with local news outlets