







Richardson Scholar Awards – Supplemental Requirements

Must be uploaded to application system by those applying for the Richardson Scholar Award in addition to all other application materials

Note: Students completing the Richardson Scholar application requirements will also be considered for our other most highly competitive awards. Richardson applicants not selected will also be automatically considered for all other awards.

-  3.5 Unweighted GPA
-  1210 SAT (reading/writing + math) or 25 ACT
-  Bright Futures Registration and Medallion Level Award*
-  Two Essays – Leadership and Service
-  Two Recommendations
-  Personal Interview (for finalists)

The motto of the Richardson Scholar program is “To Learn, To Lead, To Serve.” Applicants for the Richardson Scholar Award and those who wish to be considered for other highly competitive awards must upload the following **supplemental materials** by the Full Application deadline of January 29, 2026.

Two Essays: Write an essay for each of the prompts below, and upload them in pdf format into our Application Portal.

Leadership Essay (500-650 words)

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated.” — Maya Angelou

Reflect on a time in your life when you faced a challenge or setback that tested your determination, values, or sense of purpose. How did you respond or navigate your way through the challenge or setback, and what did it reveal about your character and leadership potential?

Service Essay (200-350 words).

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” – Aesop

Sometimes small efforts lead to big changes. Share a story when your time spent volunteering (in structured or unstructured ways) created a lasting impact – no matter how large or small. Use this opportunity to show how your kindness mattered and how it has shaped your character and goals.

Two Recommendations.

- ◆ **One from a teacher or school academic advisor** who can talk about your academic accomplishments.
- ◆ **One from an individual in the community** (an employer, pastor, volunteer activity administrator, mentor, etc.) who can talk about your participation in community activities.

There is a place on our Application Portal where you will enter the names and emails of your selected recommenders, and they will be asked to submit their reference via the Portal. Be sure to submit your requests *when you start your application* to ensure we will receive them by the deadline. You will be able to monitor whether we have received the references. We will not be able to consider you for a Richardson Award if we do not receive the recommendations by the Application Deadline of January 29, 2026.

See the next page for the text we will send the person you ask to prepare a recommendation.

You must enter names and contact information in our application portal for two people you are asking for recommendations to support your application. This is the text of the email our system will send to them. You do not need to send this to them, but you should advise them to look for the request.

Richardson Scholar Recommendation Request

[System will enter your name] has applied for the Richardson Scholar Award and may be considered for other highly competitive awards which are administered through Scholarship Foundation of Indian River County. These 4-year scholarships of up to \$7,500 per year will be awarded to students with financial need who excel in academics, leadership and service. As part of the application process, we require two recommendations for each applicant, one from a teacher or school advisor and one from an individual in the community. The student has listed you as one of those who have agreed to write a recommendation as a:

_____ Teacher/School Advisor

_____ Individual in the Community

The motto of the Richardson Scholar Program is “To Learn, To Lead, To Serve.”

- **Please provide us with a one-page letter candidly assessing how well you think the applicant demonstrates this philosophy in his or her life.**
- **Please let us know your relationship to the applicant and how long you have known him or her.**
- **Since we have many qualified applicants for these awards, please help us understand how this candidate compares to other outstanding students you have known.**
- **Please include your name, address, occupation and employer and daytime telephone number.**

Please upload your recommendation at the link below in this email. All recommendations must be in our office by our Full Application deadline of Thursday, January 29, 2026 in order for the applicant to be considered for this award. We ask your help in submitting in well in advance of the deadlines so applicant's files will be complete.

**Scholarship Foundation of Indian River County
Post Office Box 1820
Vero Beach, FL 32961-1820
Phone: (772) 569-9869 Fax: (772) 770-6181**

Our office is located at: 1555 Indian River Blvd., Suite B-111, Vero Beach

Thank you for your help!