

PHHA
PENNSYLVANIA HARNESS
Horsemen's Association

2026

JAMES MANDERINO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

APPLICATION & GUIDELINES

In honor of James J. Manderino

Pennsylvania legislative leader and lifelong advocate for the horsemen, families and fair racing traditions of Pennsylvania harness racing.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
December 6, 2026

Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association
1001 Harrah's Blvd., Chester, PA 19013
(610) 874-5200 · info@phha.org

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The Legacy Behind the Scholarship

James J. Manderino was a powerful Pennsylvania legislative leader who became closely associated with Standardbred racing. He sponsored harness-racing legislation and advocated in Harrisburg for purse money, for working horsemen, and for Pennsylvania's county-fair racing system.

Manderino was more than a name attached to a scholarship. For years he worked directly on harness-racing legislation and spoke publicly for the economic interests of the people who make racing happen — owners, trainers, drivers, grooms and everyone on the backstretch — while championing grassroots fair racing. In 1981 he argued, in essence, that the financial survival of Pennsylvania racing depended on keeping the people who actually race horses economically viable.

The Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association continues that legacy through the James Manderino Scholarship Fund. By supporting the children and grandchildren of Pennsylvania owners, trainers and drivers, the scholarship carries forward his commitment to the same horsemen and families he championed decades ago.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The PHHA awards scholarships for post-secondary education each year to students rooted in the traditions of our sport. The number and amount of awards are set annually by the PHHA, with a **minimum of $1,000 per student** and a **lifetime maximum of $15,000**. Previous recipients are encouraged to reapply until they reach the lifetime maximum.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- **Family:** The candidate must be the child or grandchild of an owner, trainer or driver who has raced in Pennsylvania on a regular basis and been a PHHA member during the two years before this application. Children of deceased members are also eligible.
- **Student:** A high school senior or high school graduate who intends to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited college, university, community college, trade school, vocational school, or other recognized career or technical education program.

HOW APPLICANTS ARE JUDGED

- Scholarship, citizenship, leadership and character
- Contributions to school and community life
- Financial need, based on parents' income, assets and family circumstances, including the number, ages and schooling needs of siblings
- **Special consideration** for studies related to the harness racing industry

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

- Recipients must remain full-time students and keep a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 during the award year. Proof of a qualifying GPA is required before payment.
- A student who drops below full time because of health or another emergency needs Trustee approval to receive later payments.
- Awards are paid directly to the school or program for the student's account by **December 31, 2026**.
- The PHHA may cancel or end an award at any time if, in its opinion, the recipient directly or indirectly engages in undesirable activities.

YOUR APPLICATION PACKET

Submit items in this order, unfolded and out of their envelopes.

- ☐ This application, completed and signed by you and by your principal or dean
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation (200 words max each): one from a school official, one from a community member
- ☐ A transcript showing current class rank (include SAT or ACT scores if taken)
- ☐ An education history of no more than 200 words (see Section 3)
- ☐ A recent wallet-size photo
- ☐ Your parent's or guardian's current tax return **(required)**
- ☐ *Optional:* exhibits of notable achievement in leadership, writing, athletics, the arts or service (please avoid repeating information)

Applications that are not substantially complete will not be considered. If grades and test scores do not reflect your abilities, describe your other strengths.

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Applications and guidelines are available at all PHHA offices and online. The PHHA verifies the member's PHHA membership and racing activity for each application.

1 STUDENT INFORMATION

FULL NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____ Best contact: ☐ Email ☐ Phone

CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ GPA _____ CLASS SIZE _____

PHHA MEMBER NAME · RELATIONSHIP: ☐ PARENT ☐ GRANDPARENT _____ Role: ☐ Owner ☐ Trainer ☐ Driver

If awarded, send payment to (school or program you will attend)

SCHOOL OR PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL AID OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS _____ STUDENT ID # AT THAT SCHOOL _____

2 ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

List each item in chronological order with dates. Attach a separate sheet if needed.

Honors and awards

School activities and organizations (include offices held)

Community service and employment outside school

Other interests, hobbies or relevant information (including any involvement in harness racing)

3 EDUCATION & CAREER PLANS

Schools or programs applied to, in order of preference (skip if already enrolled)

1.

2.

3.

INTENDED MAJOR OR PROGRAM OF STUDY

PROGRAM LENGTH (YEARS)

CAREER GOAL

Other scholarships applied for (mark any you have been awarded)

Education history (attach separately, 200 words max). In narrative form, describe how your educational interests have developed since you entered high school. Include subjects of special interest, academic achievements and any other qualifications that bear on this award.

Attach wallet-size photo here

4 STUDENT'S ANNUAL BUDGET

Resources		Costs	
Savings	$	Tuition and fees	$
Summer earnings	$	Books and equipment	$
Earnings during school year	$	Room and board / food	$
Loans, scholarships, other aid	$	Clothing and personal	$
Other: _____	$	Transportation / other	$
Total resources	**$**	**Total costs**	**$**

5 PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent / Guardian 1

NAME

HOME ADDRESS

EMPLOYER | POSITION / YEARS THERE

ANNUAL SALARY (PRE-TAX) $ | OTHER INCOME $

Parent / Guardian 2

NAME

HOME ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT)

EMPLOYER | POSITION / YEARS THERE

ANNUAL SALARY (PRE-TAX) $ | OTHER INCOME $

Other dependent children in the household

NAME	AGE	SCHOOL / GRADE	ANNUAL TUITION, FEES, ROOM & BOARD $

Other debts, extraordinary expenses or unusual family circumstances

A current parent/guardian tax return must be submitted with this application.

I certify that I have reviewed the information on this form and all attachments, and that it is true and complete.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE | DATE

PRINCIPAL OR DEAN SIGNATURE | DATE

PHHA OFFICE USE ONLY

☐ Membership & racing activity verified ☐ Packet complete Date received: _____ Initials: _____