

RHODE ISLAND
POLONIA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
866 Atwells Avenue • Providence RI • 02909
Scholarship Application 2025

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CRITERIA

Scholarships will be awarded to students of Polish-American descent who are Rhode Island residents or who belong to a Rhode Island Polish-American organization, and are U.S. citizens. Scholarships are open to current high school seniors applying to an accredited post-secondary educational institution in either a two or four year program. Criteria for awards include academic achievement, extra curricular activities, community service, etc. The scholarship award is for one year only, and is non-renewable.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

High school senior of Polish-American descent who is a U.S citizen, a resident of Rhode Island and / or is a member of a Rhode Island Polish-American organization

Academic qualification of "B" or its equivalent

Official academic transcript, including rank in class

Completion of this application form

Two letters of reference sent directly to the Foundation to be received prior to the deadline of January 31 by email to polishscholarshipsri@gmail.com

Two essays:

1. Student's personal profile (minimum 100 words - typed), which includes accomplishments, activities in and out of school, SERVICE HOURS, future goals, etc. Additionally, you may also include your resume.
2. An essay (typed) in your own words (minimum 500 words) - See page 5 below in this application for details of the essay topic for the current academic year

DEADLINE: Saturday January 31, 2025

All of the above must be received by this date.

Announcement of the awards shall be made by March 14, 2025. The scholarship money shall be forwarded after September 1 to the student's college, upon confirmation of enrollment for the fall semester.

*******STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE THE AWARD AT THE SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2025 AWARD CEREMONY BEGINNING AT 5:30PM.**

******Undistributed funds will revert back to the Foundation by the start of the first day of the new year after the first semester following the Award Ceremony.**

Submit any questions by email to polishscholarshipsri@gmail.com.

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Name* _____

Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Are you a US citizen? _____

Permanent Address _____

Your Personal Email
(not school email) _____

Your Cell Phone _____

Your Parents' Names _____

Your Parents' Email(s) _____

Parents' Cell Phones _____

Code Number** _____
Last 5 digits of your Social Security number

If this application is approved, I hereby agree to supply any necessary pertinent information, such as documentation of acceptance to college, etc., and to be available personally, if deemed necessary, by the Scholarship Selection Committee.

******APPROVED APPLICANT MUST BE PRESENT at the Awards Ceremony to receive the award. Otherwise the student will forfeit the scholarship award.**

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Deadline: JANUARY 31

This separate form has been requested to provide for anonymity in the selection of candidates for the award.

****All other materials, such as reference letters, etc., shall use the 5 digit number code taken from the student's last 5 social security number digits. The selection committee will not have this page and any identifying material shall be expunged to maintain anonymity.**

* Candidates must be of Polish-American descent, a resident of Rhode Island, or a member of a Rhode Island Polish-American organization, and be a United States Citizen.

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Code Number (last 5 digits of Social Security)

Instructions:

- ☐ Complete the entire application and email or mail. See below
 - ☐ Submit an official academic transcript.
 - ☐ Send (by US MAIL or EMAIL) two letters of reference directly to polishscholarshipsri@gmail.com or 866 Atwells Avenue, Providence, RI 02909.
 - Please have your 5 digit code number placed on the reference by the writer.
 - ☐ **Submit all materials (completely filled out) and have letters of reference sent prior to the deadline date, JANUARY 31, 2025.**
 - ☐ If awarded, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the college/university completes and sends to the Foundation the validated Reimbursement Letter for disbursement of funds to the institution.
- ****Undistributed funds will revert back to the Foundation by the start of the first day of the new calendar year after the first semester.**

1. Ethnicity: Please check where applicable.

Parents

Mother Polish descent _____

Father Polish descent _____

Grandparents (include last maiden & last names)

Maternal Grandmother Polish descent _____

Maternal Grandfather Polish descent _____

Paternal Grandmother Polish descent _____

Paternal Grandfather Polish descent _____

2. Please complete the following:

School now attending: _____

Occupation of: Father _____

Mother _____

Age of: Father _____

Mother _____

Brother(s) _____

Sisters(s) _____

If any siblings are still in school, name the school(s): _____

Are you presently employed? _____

Hours worked weekly: _____

Are you applying for financial aid? _____

If yes, what kind? _____

3. Which of these categories describes your family household income for last year?

____ Less than \$10,000

____ \$50,000 – \$100,000

____ \$100,000 – \$150,000

____ \$150,000 – \$200,000

4. How did you hear about our scholarship?

____ Guidance Counselor ____ Facebook ____ Online Search

____ Newspaper ____ Church Bulletin ____ Family/Friend

Other: please specify: _____

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☐ Submit (2) TWO references from persons (except relatives) who know you well, and who are able to assess your character, motivation, performance and future promise, prior to the deadline of January 31

1. Name	_____	Title or Position	_____
Address	_____	Tel. No.	_____
	_____	Email	_____
2. Name	_____	Title or Position	_____
Address	_____	Tel. No.	_____
	_____	Email	_____

☐ Request that letters of reference by these (2) TWO individuals (listed above) be **emailed prior to the due date** DIRECTLY to the Rhode Island Polonia Scholarship Foundation at POLISHSCHOLARSHIPSRI@GMAIL.COM

☐ Attach a typed brief essay/ profile (Minimum 100 words) describing:

1. Yourself and your accomplishments to date,
2. Your activities in and out of school, community service and
3. Your future career goals
4. If you have drafted your resume, please include.

☐ Attach a typed essay IN YOUR OWN WORDS (Minimum 500 words). Topic and instructions are listed below on the next page.

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Scholarship Application 2025

RIPSF Essay Requirements for 2025

- One of the requirements for the RIPSF scholarship award is to research the selected topic and submit a typed essay (minimum of 500 words)
- **All applicants must include a Bibliography of all sources used for both hardcopy and electronic references. Follow the same notation style to quote reference sources and citations as you do for your high school research essays, i.e. adhere to all aspects of MLA format, including proper heading, parenthetical notation and a Works Cited page**
- **Be prepared to read/ present your essay at the Awards Ceremony if you are one of the recipients**

RIPSF Essay Topic for 2025

With the 2024 Summer Olympics in the history books and the Winter Olympics scheduled for 2026, this year's essay topic focuses on **Americans of Polish Heritage and their participation in sports**. From pickup games on the local playground to high school and college teams, to club sponsored leagues, to Olympic tryouts, and to amateur and professional teams, Polish Americans have participated in practically every recognized sporting venue. In the late 19th and early 20th century Polish immigrants and their children found participation in sports as a way to overcome social barriers of the time. With determination and dedication athletes of Polish descent continue to prove their athletic ability.

Besides the more easily recognizable names such as Rob Gronkowski (New England Patriots) and Mike Krzyzewski (Duke University basketball coach), there is an extensive roster of Polish American athletes each with an interesting story. Some of those inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF) include:

- Elaine Zayak, figure skating, after recovering from a serious foot injury when she was two years old went on to win a silver medal in the 1981 World Championship
- Allison Mleczo, hockey, Captain of the Women's Hockey Team at Harvard University and a 1998 Olympic Gold Medalist
- Tony Adamowicz, motor sports, winner of the US Formula Revival Championship 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2014
- Tony Zale, boxing, World Middleweight Boxing Champion, 1940 and 1948

In your own words, write a thoughtful and coherent essay by briefly discussing one athlete of Polish American heritage (either from above or one of your choosing). Ensure you follow the instructions to compose your essay and address each of these 6 bullet points:

- ☐ 1. Describe the athlete's background, including recognition of their Polish heritage
- ☐ 2. Summarize the goals the athlete achieved and recognition attained in their sport
- ☐ 3. Discuss obstacles or setbacks the athlete had to overcome to reach their goal
- ☐ 4. Describe what you admire about the athlete you selected
- ☐ 5. (Optional) Not everyone can engage in philanthropy, but has this athlete given back to the community through charitable efforts, paid it forward, during or after their career? If so, tell us about it and what was their overarching goal
- ☐ 6. Discuss how this athlete's achievements can motivate you to do your best at whatever you set out to do

Suggested electronic references:

- National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame
<https://www.polishsportshof.com/inductees> (to view biographies) and on Face book –
<https://www.facebook.com/polishsportshof/>

Suggested general/ print references:

- Chasing the American Dream: Polish Americans in Sports (1995) by Thomas M. Tarapacki
- My Name is Million (1978) by W.S. Kuniczak
- Behold! The Polish Americans (1977) by Joseph A. Wytrywal