

Student FAQs

Who is eligible?

Any 2026 graduating student willing to share their real experience at Sage Oak who demonstrates growth, responsibility, service, or excellence. You do not need to be a "top GPA student" to apply.

Scholarship Categories

These are the scholarship categories. Please note that you may only apply to one:

- Service Scholarship
- Accountability Scholarship
- Growth Mindset Scholarship
- Excellence Scholarship
- Superintendent's Award

Scholarship Descriptions

Please read through a description of each scholarship below.

Service Scholarship

Based on: Service + Student Learning Outcomes (community contribution)

Who this is for:

Students who made a positive contribution to their school, family, or community through their actions.

What counts:

This scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate a service mindset, not just volunteering hours, but showing up for others in meaningful ways.

Examples of service may include:

- Supporting family responsibilities while continuing your education
- Helping peers stay on track or feel supported
- Contributing to your local or global community
- Representing Sage Oak with care, respect, and responsibility

This award is about impact and intention.

Accountability Scholarship

Based on: Accountability + self-directed learning outcomes

Who this is for:

Students who took ownership of their learning and responsibilities, even when it was hard.

What counts:

This scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated accountability by managing their time effectively, communicating proactively, and following through on their commitments.

Examples may include:

- Adjusting your schedule or habits after falling behind
- Communicating honestly with your advisor or teachers
- Taking responsibility for mistakes and correcting course
- Managing your learning independently in a flexible environment

This award is about trust, integrity, and follow-through.

Growth Mindset Scholarship

Based on: Growth Mindset + perseverance outcomes

Who this is for:

Students who grew through challenge and didn't give up when learning became difficult.

What counts:

This scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated perseverance, sought help when needed, and changed their approach to learning over time.

Examples may include:

- Overcoming academic setbacks
- Learning how to ask for help or use new strategies
- Persisting through personal or educational challenges
- Becoming more confident, curious, or self-aware as a learner

This award values progress over perfection.

Excellence Scholarship

Based on: Excellence + high-quality learning outcomes

Who this is for:

Students who consistently aimed high and went beyond minimum expectations.

What counts:

This scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate excellence by producing strong work, engaging deeply in learning, and holding themselves to high standards.

Examples may include:

- Consistently high-quality work samples
- Strong engagement in coursework or projects
- Seeking feedback and refining your work
- Taking pride in learning and outcomes

This award is about intentional, high-effort work.

Superintendent's Award

Based on: Leadership, values, and school impact

Who this is for:

Students who demonstrated leadership aligned with Sage Oak's mission and values.

What counts:

This award recognizes students whose actions positively influenced their own learning and the broader school community.

Examples may include:

- Advocating for yourself or others
- Modeling responsibility, integrity, and growth
- Representing Sage Oak's values through your decisions
- Making a meaningful impact beyond your own coursework

This award is about character, leadership, and lasting impact.

Do I need perfect grades to qualify?

No. These scholarships value growth, accountability, and impact, not GPA alone.

Do I need to write an essay?

No. Responses are short answers and based on personal experience. Clear and honest beats long and polished.

Can I re-use experiences from college applications?

Yes, *if* the experience is specific to Sage Oak and you answer the questions directly. Generic copy-paste responses are easy to spot and will score poorly.

Should I use AI to help write my responses?

You may use tools to organize your thoughts, but responses must sound like you and reflect real experiences. Overly generic or AI-written responses will not be selected.

What makes a strong application?

- A specific experience (not a summary of your whole high school career)
- Clear actions you took

- Honest reflection on growth or learning
- Direct alignment to the scholarship you selected

What weakens an application?

- Vague statements ("I learned a lot," or "I worked hard")
- Listing accomplishments without reflection
- Writing what you think reviewers want to hear
- Applying to scholarships that don't match your experience

How many students will be selected?

A total of 18 recipients will be awarded across all scholarships.

What's the deadline?

February 20, 2026. Late submissions will not be reviewed.

Who should I contact for further questions?

If your last name starts with A-M,
contact Coral Prendergast at cprendergast@sageoak.education

If your last name starts with N-Z,
contact Mackenzie Akins at makins@sageoak.education