



MAHWAH PRIDE COALITION 2026 SCHOLARSHIP

The Mahwah Pride Coalition is a local non-profit organization committed to making Mahwah a more welcoming town for the LGBTQ+ community that lives, works, and attends school here. Our mission is to help foster awareness and respect for the LGBTQ+ community through education, visibility, and outreach.

One way in which we seek to accomplish our mission is by hosting the annual Mahwah Pride Celebration. Another is by awarding outstanding high school seniors residing in Mahwah with a \$500 scholarship to assist with the cost of higher education. In doing so, we seek to encourage continuing education for LGBTQ+ youth and foster a more positive image of the LGBTQ+ community in society.

All applicants for the scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- You must be a member of your high school's Genders & Sexualities Alliance (GSA) and/or someone whose actions and accomplishments demonstrate significant support for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.
- You must live in Mahwah and be a graduating high school senior and self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or intersex, or as an ally of the LGBTQ+ community (i.e., someone who has demonstrated support for LGBTQ+ individuals through community work, etc.).
- You must have been accepted to, and plan on attending in the fall, an accredited institution of higher learning.
- You must provide a maximum 500-word essay describing your connection to the LGBTQ+ community and how you have demonstrated support for the rights, and promoted acceptance, of persons of all genders and sexualities through community activities and personal actions.
- You must request a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or administrator from your high school attesting to the content of your character. Attached are instructions which you can provide to the individual completing your recommendation.
- The Mahwah Pride Coalition must receive your completed application, essay and letter of recommendation by email to MahwahPride@gmail.com no later than 11:59 pm on Monday, May 4, 2026



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You must complete this form as your application to be included with your essay

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

High School: _____

Applicant identifies as _____ LGBTQ+ or _____ Ally (check one)

College/University Applicant will be attending in the fall:

Applicant's Name

Date



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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION INSTRUCTIONS

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- Must have been accepted to, and plan on attending in the fall, an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Must submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or administrator from their high school attesting to the content of their character.

Thank you for supporting a high school senior from Mahwah in their application for this scholarship. The letter of recommendation must include the following information:

- The name of the Applicant
- The name of their high school
- Your name and role at the high school
- A detailed explanation of why you believe the Applicant is deserving of this scholarship based on your personal knowledge of the Applicant.

Your letter of recommendation must be submitted directly to the Mahwah Pride Coalition by email at: MahwahPride@gmail.com no later than 11:59 pm on Monday, May 4, 2026