Scholarship Opportunities for John

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This report lists 20 scholarships that match John's intake form and are still open or will open before he starts college in fall 2027. Each one was checked against the sponsor's official website. Two deadlines are very close: **VFW Voice of Democracy (Oct 31)** and **Elks Most Valuable Student (Nov 12)**. Start with those, then the National Honor Society Scholarship (Nov 20) and Jack Kent Cooke (Nov 11).

1. Summary Chart

Sorted by deadline, soonest first. "Expected" dates are estimates based on the prior year's cycle.

Scholarship	Award Amount	Deadline	Key Eligibility	Fit	Renewable?
VFW Voice of Democracy	$1,000–$35,000	Oct 31, 2026	Grades 9–12; audio essay entered through a local VFW Post	**High**	One-time
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship	Up to $55,000/yr	Nov 11, 2026	3.75+ unweighted GPA; family income up to $95,000; unmet need	Medium	Yes (4 yrs)
Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship	$4,000–$30,000	Nov 12, 2026	U.S. citizen high school senior; 4-year degree, full-time	**High**	Yes (4 yrs)
National Honor Society Scholarship	~$3,333 avg.	Nov 20, 2026	Senior and active NHS member with verified student account	**High**	One-time
Ron Brown Scholar Program	$40,000	Dec 1, 2026	Black/African American senior; leadership and service; need considered	Medium	Yes (4 yrs)
Burger King Scholars Program	$1,000–$60,000	Dec 15, 2026	U.S. senior; 2.0+ GPA; work, activities and service weighed	**High**	Varies
Equitable Excellence Scholarship	$5,000–$20,000	Dec 22, 2026	Public high school senior; 2.5+ GPA; drive to give back	**High**	Yes (4 yrs)
Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest	$300–$10,000	Dec 31, 2026	Eagle Scout under age 19 this year; registered in an active unit	**High**	One-time
GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship	$10,000–$40,000	Jan 7, 2027	U.S. citizen senior; 3.0+ GPA; leadership and citizenship	**High**	Yes (4 yrs)
Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship	Up to $35,000	Jan 14, 2027	U.S. citizen senior; academic excellence, leadership; need	Medium	Yes (4 yrs)
Union Plus Scholarship	$1,000–$4,000	Jan 31, 2027	Dependent child of a participating union member (1+ yr)	**High**	Reapply yearly
National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) Scholarships	$4,000–$50,000	Feb 1, 2027	Eagle Scout and active NESA member; full-time enrollment	**High**	Varies
American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) Scholarship	$3,000–$5,000	Expected ~Feb 15, 2027 (based on prior cycle)	Senior; 3.0+ unweighted GPA; STEM or business major	**High**	Yes
Pittsburgh Foundation College/County Single Year Awards	Up to $5,000	Feb 17, 2027	Allegheny County senior; criteria vary by fund	Medium	One-time
American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year	$2,500–$10,000	Mar 1, 2027	Eagle Scout; son/grandson of a Legion member or Legion-chartered troop	**High**	One-time
POISE Foundation Scholarships (incl. Robert B. Pease Fund)	$500–$2,500	Expected ~spring 2027 (based on prior cycle)	Allegheny County; African American students encouraged; engineering preferred (Pease)	**High**	One-time

Scholarship	Award Amount	Deadline	Key Eligibility	Fit	Renewable?
The Pittsburgh Promise	Up to $20,000	May 1, 2027 (FAFSA + PA State Grant Form)	City resident and PPS student since 9th grade; 2.5+ GPA; 90% attendance	**High**	Yes (4 yrs)
Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation Scholarship	$3,000–$5,000	Expected ~May 1, 2027 (based on prior cycle)	PPS or listed Allegheny County senior; 3.0+ GPA; leadership and character	**High**	2nd year
Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation Kiwanian Dependent Child Scholarship	$2,000	Expected ~May 8, 2027 (based on prior cycle)	Child of a Pennsylvania District Kiwanis member	**High**	One-time
Beyond Scholars (Beyond Type 1)	$10,000	Expected ~late Aug 2027 (based on prior cycle)	Recent high school graduate with type 1 or type 2 diabetes; need-based	Medium	One-time

Potential value: Not counting Jack Kent Cooke (a need-based award of up to $55,000 a year) and the NHS Scholarship (amounts not published), the top published award in each program adds up to about $383,500. These are maximums from competitive programs, so a realistic goal is a handful of wins worth a few thousand to tens of thousands of dollars, with the Pittsburgh Promise ($20,000) as the most dependable piece if John attends Pitt or Penn State.

2. Scholarship Details

VFW Voice of Democracy

- **Summary:** The Veterans of Foreign Wars runs this audio-essay contest, which asks students to record a short essay on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "What a Veteran Taught Me About America." Entries move from the local post to the state and national levels.
- **Award Amount:** National first place is a $35,000 scholarship; other national awards go up to $21,000; each state (Department) first-place winner receives at least $1,000 plus a trip to the Spirit of America youth leadership program at Valley Forge. More than $1.6 million is awarded in total. One-time awards.
- **Deadline:** October 31, 2026 (midnight), submitted with the entry form to a participating local VFW Post. This deadline is 9 days away.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Student in grades 9–12 (John is a senior).
  - Audio essay on the year's theme plus a completed entry form, sent to a sponsoring VFW Post.
  - **Match:** John's three years as newspaper Editor-in-Chief make this writing-and-speaking contest a natural fit, and his father's American Legion ties may help him find a veteran to draw on for the theme.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation backs high-achieving students with financial need. It is one of the most generous awards in the country, paying remaining college costs after other aid and adding advising and support.
- **Award Amount:** Up to $55,000 per year, applied after all institutional aid; the actual amount depends on the student's remaining need. Renewable for up to four years.
- **Deadline:** November 11, 2026. The application is open now.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Graduating spring 2027 after four years of U.S. high school; enrolling at a four-year college in fall 2027.
  - Minimum 3.75 cumulative unweighted GPA, plus at least one SAT, ACT, AP or IB score (no minimum score).

- Unmet financial need; maximum annual family gross income of $95,000 (recent cohorts averaged about $42,000).
- **Match:** John's 3.85 GPA and SAT 1290 meet the academic bar. His family's income of about $95,000 sits right at the cap, so confirm the exact figure and that the 3.85 is unweighted before applying. Rated Medium for that reason.

Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Elks National Foundation's flagship contest rewards seniors for scholarship, leadership and financial need. Applicants do not need any connection to the Elks, and male and female students compete separately.
- **Award Amount:** 500 four-year scholarships: 20 first-place awards of $30,000 (with a required leadership weekend in Chicago, Apr 29–May 2, 2027) and 480 runner-up awards of $4,000. Paid out over four years.
- **Deadline:** November 12, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Current high school senior and U.S. citizen (permanent residents are not eligible).
  - Must pursue a four-year degree full time at an accredited U.S. college.
  - **Match:** John is a citizen with a 3.85 GPA, rank of 5 of 153, three years as soccer captain and newspaper Editor-in-Chief, Eagle Scout and steady volunteer work, which fits this program's leadership-and-scholarship focus closely.

National Honor Society Scholarship

- **Summary:** The National Association of Secondary School Principals funds scholarships for NHS members who show scholarship, service, leadership and character. The top 25 finalists receive a paid trip to Washington, D.C.
- **Award Amount:** This year's program awards $2 million to 600 students (about $3,333 each on average). One-time awards.
- **Deadline:** November 20, 2026, 5:00 p.m. ET. The page was showing the portal as "currently closed" when checked, so confirm the status with the school's NHS adviser right away.
- **Eligibility:**
  - High school senior and active NHS member in good standing.
  - NHS student account verified by the chapter adviser.
  - **Match:** John is a current National Honor Society member.

Ron Brown Scholar Program

- **Summary:** Named for the late U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, this program selects Black high school seniors who excel academically, lead in their communities, and show promise for public service. Scholars also join a lifelong mentoring network.
- **Award Amount:** About 20 scholarships of $40,000 each, paid as $10,000 per year for four years at any accredited four-year U.S. college.
- **Deadline:** Application due December 1, 2026; transcripts and recommendation letters due December 15, 2026.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Black/African American U.S. citizen or permanent resident; current high school senior.
  - Academic excellence, leadership potential and community service.
  - Financial need is considered (applicants who expect to qualify for aid are encouraged to apply).

- **Match:** John is African American with top grades, leadership roles and service. Rated Medium because need is a factor at his family's income level.

Burger King Scholars Program

- **Summary:** The Burger King Foundation funds college or trade school for high school seniors who balance school with work, activities and community service. It is one of the largest corporate scholarship programs in the country.
- **Award Amount:** Awards range from $1,000 to $60,000. Three students each year receive the top $60,000 James W. McLamore WHOPPER Scholarship.
- **Deadline:** Application window opened October 15, 2026, and closes December 15, 2026.
- **Eligibility:**
  - High school senior in the U.S., Puerto Rico or Canada with at least a 2.0 GPA.
  - Selection weighs GPA, work experience, activities, community service and financial need.
  - **Match:** John works 10 hours a week at Giant Eagle while holding a 3.85 GPA, captaining soccer and volunteering at a food bank, which is exactly the profile this program rewards.

Equitable Excellence Scholarship

- **Summary:** Financial services company Equitable funds this program, run by Scholarship America, for public high school seniors who show ambition and a commitment to encouraging others to pursue education.
- **Award Amount:** $5,000 per year, renewable for up to three more years (up to $20,000) or until a bachelor's degree is earned. Up to 100 recipients.
- **Deadline:** December 22, 2026, 3:00 p.m. Central Time. The application is open.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Senior at a public high school (private and homeschool students are not eligible).
  - Minimum 2.5 GPA; enrolling full time at an accredited two- or four-year U.S. college for 2027–28.
  - **Match:** Barack Obama Academy is a Pittsburgh Public Schools high school, and John's food bank service and newspaper leadership show the give-back drive the program looks for.

Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest

- **Summary:** The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution holds this contest for Eagle Scouts, who submit an application and patriotic essay through a local SAR chapter. Winners advance from chapter to state to national judging.
- **Award Amount:** National prizes of $10,000, $6,000, $4,000, $2,000 and $1,000 for 1st–5th place, $500 for 6th–10th and $300 for 11th–15th. State and chapter societies often add their own prizes.
- **Deadline:** December 31, 2026 (midnight), received by the local SAR chapter.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Eagle Scout who has not turned 19 during the calendar year of application, and currently registered in an active unit.
  - **Match:** John is an Eagle Scout who is 18 for all of 2026. Confirm he is still registered with his troop or crew.

GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and GE fund this merit-first scholarship for seniors who show leadership, drive, integrity and citizenship. Financial information is reviewed but is not an eligibility cutoff.
- **Award Amount:** $10,000 per year, renewable for up to three additional years (up to $40,000 total).

- **Deadline:** January 7, 2027, 3:00 p.m. ET. The application opened October 12, 2026.
- **Eligibility:**
  - U.S. citizen and current high school senior with at least a 3.0 GPA.
  - Enrolling full time at an accredited four-year U.S. college in 2027–28.
  - **Match:** Strong academics plus leadership as soccer captain, Editor-in-Chief and Eagle Scout.

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Jackie Robinson Foundation supports high-achieving students with leadership and service records through four-year scholarships, mentoring and a national leadership program.
- **Award Amount:** Up to $35,000 over four years, along with mentoring, internships and leadership programming.
- **Deadline:** January 14, 2027, 5:00 p.m. ET.
- **Eligibility:**
  - U.S. citizen and graduating senior headed to an approved four-year college; SAT or ACT score required.
  - Academic excellence, leadership and community service.
  - Evidence of financial need is required.
  - **Match:** John's academic and leadership record is strong. Rated Medium because need is required.

Union Plus Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Union Plus Education Foundation, a union-member benefits group, awards scholarships to union members and their families. Essays on the student's connection to the labor movement count for much of the score.
- **Award Amount:** One-time awards of $1,000 to $4,000; students may reapply each year.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 2027, 11:59 p.m. ET. Late applications are not considered.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Dependent child of a member of a participating union; the parent needs one year of continuous membership by May 31, 2027.
  - Two essays (about 350 words each), one reference letter, and the union local's contact details; 3.0+ GPA recommended.
  - **Match:** John's father is an IBEW member (Duquesne Light lineman), and children of IBEW members have won this award. The form leaves the local number blank, so confirm it (Pittsburgh-area Duquesne Light linemen are commonly IBEW Local 29).

National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) Scholarships

- **Summary:** The National Eagle Scout Association funds scholarships for Eagle Scouts based on Scouting record, service, character and need. Awards are given nationally and in each of 14 Council Service Territories.
- **Award Amount:** One $50,000 four-year Cooke award and four $30,000 four-year awards, plus 14 one-year $10,000 awards and many one-year $8,000, $6,000, $5,000 and $4,000 awards. A student can receive a NESA scholarship only once.
- **Deadline:** February 1, 2027, 11:59 p.m. CST. The portal opens December 1, 2026.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Eagle Scout and active NESA member (join before applying if he is not already a member).
  - Senior year of high school or later, enrolling full time.
  - **Match:** John is an Eagle Scout.

American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) Scholarship

- **Summary:** AABE, a professional group for African Americans in the energy industry, funds scholarships for students headed into STEM or business fields that lead to energy careers. Awards are given at the chapter, regional and national levels.
- **Award Amount:** More than $350,000 is awarded each year across chapter, regional and national levels. National awards have been about $3,000–$5,000, and listings describe them as renewable.
- **Deadline:** The application opens in November 2026. Last cycle closed February 15, so expect a mid-February 2027 deadline.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA; planned major in an approved field such as engineering.
  - Enrolling in fall at an accredited college, university or technical school; community leadership.
  - **Match:** John is African American, plans to major in Electrical Engineering, and his father works for Duquesne Light, an electric utility, which fits the energy-career focus.

Pittsburgh Foundation College/County Single Year Awards

- **Summary:** The Pittsburgh Foundation, the region's community foundation, uses one application to match students to two dozen local funds, many for Allegheny County seniors. The Comptaro, Elden, Lewis Combined Funds are open to any Allegheny County senior with need.
- **Award Amount:** Up to $5,000 per award, one-time. Payment goes to the college in July or August.
- **Deadline:** Application opens January 6, 2027, and closes February 17, 2027 (dates confirmed for the Comptaro, Elden, Lewis funds).
- **Eligibility:**
  - Allegheny County resident and graduating senior; at least a 2.0 GPA; full-time study.
  - Many funds are need-based or tied to a major (for example, the Bakaleinikoff Memorial Fund for music students).
  - **Match:** John lives in Pittsburgh (Allegheny County). Rated Medium because the general funds he fits are need-based.

American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year

- **Summary:** The American Legion honors one Eagle Scout each year for service to Scouting, church and community. Each state Legion Department chooses a nominee, and the national winner is picked from those nominees.
- **Award Amount:** $10,000 for the national Eagle Scout of the Year and $2,500 each for three runners-up. Must be used within four years of graduation.
- **Deadline:** Nomination packet due to the Pennsylvania American Legion Department by March 1, 2027 (window opens November 1, 2026).
- **Eligibility:**
  - Registered, active member of a Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew or similar unit.
  - Unit chartered to a Legion post or Auxiliary unit, or the Scout is the son or grandson of a Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion member.
  - **Match:** John is an Eagle Scout, and his father is an American Legion member, which meets the family-connection rule.

POISE Foundation Scholarships (incl. Robert B. Pease Fund)

- **Summary:** POISE Foundation is a Pittsburgh community foundation focused on the Black community. Its Robert B. Pease Fund honors a pioneering Black engineer and prefers engineering students, and its General Scholarships support Allegheny County students at any college.
- **Award Amount:** Pease Fund: one award of about $1,500–$2,500 each year. General Scholarships: about five awards of $500–$1,500 per cycle.
- **Deadline:** General Scholarships run spring and fall cycles; the fall 2026 window (Sept 1–Oct 4) has closed. Watch for the spring 2027 window and the next Pease Fund cycle.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Allegheny County resident and U.S. citizen attending a two- or four-year college (any U.S. location).
  - African American students strongly encouraged; Pease Fund prefers engineering majors.
  - **Match:** African American Pittsburgh resident planning to study Electrical Engineering.

The Pittsburgh Promise

- **Summary:** The Pittsburgh Promise pays college costs for graduates of Pittsburgh Public Schools who have lived in the city since 9th grade. The Class of 2027 is one of the last two classes eligible.
- **Award Amount:** Up to $5,000 per year ($20,000 maximum), used within five years of graduation. It pays tuition, fees, housing, food and books after other grants and scholarships. Preferred College Partners also guarantee room-and-board aid.
- **Deadline:** Log in to the Promise Student Portal this fall, then complete the FAFSA and the PA State Grant Form (PHEAA) by May 1, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - City of Pittsburgh resident and continuous PPS student since 9th grade.
  - Minimum 2.50 unweighted GPA and 90% attendance.
  - Must attend an accredited, Pell-eligible college, university or trade school in Pennsylvania.
  - **Match:** John attends Obama Academy (PPS), has lived at his address 12 years, and is accepted at Pitt and Penn State, both in Pennsylvania. Note that this award would not apply if he enrolls at MIT.

Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation funds scholarships for seniors in Pittsburgh Public Schools and other listed Allegheny County schools who show leadership and character in school, sports and the community.
- **Award Amount:** $3,000 for the first year of college plus $2,000 for the second year if the student keeps a 3.0 GPA and earns at least 24 credits. Paid to the college.
- **Deadline:** Last cycle closed May 1, 2026, so expect about May 1, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Senior at a Pittsburgh Public School or another listed Allegheny County school on the foundation's eligible list.
  - Cumulative GPA of 3.0+ through the first term of senior year; three non-family recommendation letters.
  - **Match:** John attends a PPS school, and his soccer captaincy and service fit the leadership-and-character focus. Confirm Obama Academy is on the current eligible-school list.

Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation Kiwanian Dependent Child Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation awards this scholarship to graduating seniors whose parent or grandparent belongs to a Kiwanis club in the Pennsylvania District, recognizing leadership, service and academic excellence.
- **Award Amount:** $2,000 for one year.
- **Deadline:** Last cycle's materials were due by email May 8, 2026, so expect about May 8, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Parent or grandparent is a member of a Pennsylvania District Kiwanis club.
  - Graduating senior with leadership, service and academic excellence; not eligible for other PA Kiwanis Foundation scholarships.
  - **Match:** John's father is a Kiwanis member. Confirm his club is in the Pennsylvania District.

Beyond Scholars (Beyond Type 1)

- **Summary:** Beyond Type 1, a diabetes nonprofit, runs one of the largest need-based diabetes scholarships in the U.S. for students starting college or trade school.
- **Award Amount:** $10,000; recent winners also received six months of wellness coaching.
- **Deadline:** Last cycle opened July 25 and closed August 29, so expect a late-summer 2027 window, after John graduates.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Recent high school graduate with type 1 or type 2 diabetes entering college or trade school.
  - Need-based.
  - **Match:** John lists diabetes on the form. Rated Medium because the award is need-based.

3. Notes

Missing or unclear form details

- **GPA:** Only one GPA (3.85) was given. Jack Kent Cooke requires a 3.75 unweighted GPA and AABE a 3.0 unweighted GPA, so confirm whether 3.85 is weighted or unweighted.
- **Graduation date:** The form reads "06/2-"; this report assumes June 2027, matching the planned Fall 2027 start.
- **Father's IBEW local number:** Needed for Union Plus and for any local-union scholarship. Ask the local whether it offers its own award for members' children.
- **Diabetes type:** Some diabetes scholarships are limited to type 1. One example is the Scott & Kim Verplank award for seniors who play organized sports, which a soccer captain could fit. If John has type 1, more awards open up.
- **Career goal, AP/honors courses, FAFSA status, and the student's contact details** were left blank. A career goal (for example, power systems or renewable energy) would sharpen engineering matches.
- **Employer programs:** Giant Eagle (John and his mother) and Duquesne Light (his father) did not show public scholarship programs. Ask each HR department about employee or dependent scholarships.

Considered but not included

- Coca-Cola Scholars (closed Sept 30, 2026) and Sodexo Stop Hunger (closed Oct 20, 2026): deadlines have passed.
- Western Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund (Pittsburgh Foundation) and Pennsylvania American Legion Gavenonis Scholarship: these require Pell Grant eligibility or low income, which a $95,000 household is unlikely to meet.

- Gates, Dell, QuestBridge and Horatio Alger: these are for low-income students, and some deadlines have already passed.

Watch list

- American Legion Oratorical Contest: a constitution-themed speech contest with up to $25,000 nationally; it starts at the local post level. Ask John's father's Legion post for Pennsylvania's 2027 dates.
- Pittsburgh Public Schools scholarships open in spring with an end-of-April deadline. Ask the Obama Academy counseling office.
- POISE Foundation spring cycle, the Penguins Foundation, Kiwanis and Beyond Scholars all open later in the year (see the chart).

General tips

- File the FAFSA and the PA State Grant Form as soon as possible (required for the Pittsburgh Promise by May 1, 2027). Pitt and Penn State also use them to set institutional aid.
- Ask Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering and Penn State's College of Engineering about automatic merit and engineering awards for admitted students, and ask both marching bands about trombone scholarships.
- Check with the Obama Academy guidance office about school-nominated awards and local scholarships posted only at the school.
- Reuse essays: a strong leadership essay, a service essay (food bank) and a "why engineering" essay can be adapted for most of these applications.

Sources

- VFW Voice of Democracy
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship
- Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship
- National Honor Society Scholarship
- Ron Brown Scholar Program
- Burger King Scholars Program
- Equitable Excellence Scholarship
- Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest
- GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship
- Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship
- Union Plus Scholarship
- National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) Scholarships
- American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) Scholarship
- Pittsburgh Foundation College/County Single Year Awards
- American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year
- POISE Foundation Scholarships (incl. Robert B. Pease Fund)
- The Pittsburgh Promise
- Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation Scholarship
- Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation Kiwanian Dependent Child Scholarship
- Beyond Scholars (Beyond Type 1)
- Pittsburgh Foundation – Comptaro, Elden, Lewis Combined Scholarship Funds
- POISE Foundation – General Scholarships
- The Pittsburgh Promise – Eligibility
- IBEW – Members' children awarded Union Plus scholarships

- Military.com – American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year eligibility
- Pittsburgh Promise Scholarship Guide (Aug 2026)

This report is an informational research service and does not guarantee eligibility or awards. Details can change, so confirm every deadline, amount and requirement with the sponsor before applying.