Scholarship Opportunities for John Smith — prepared November 11, 2026

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Summary chart

John has 15 strong matches, led by Eagle Scout, union-family, Pittsburgh Public Schools and STEM awards. The most urgent is the **Elks Most Valuable Student** scholarship, due **tomorrow, November 12, 2026**.

Scholarship	Award Amount	Deadline	Key Eligibility	Fit	Renewable?
Elks Most Valuable Student	$1,000–$7,500/yr; top 20 get $30,000	Nov 12, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PT	U.S. citizen senior, 4-year degree	High	Yes (4 yrs)
Burger King Scholars	$1,000–$60,000	Dec 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CT	2.0+ GPA, U.S. senior	Med	No
GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship	$10,000/yr, up to $40,000	Jan 7, 2027, 3:00 p.m. ET	U.S. citizen, 3.0+ GPA, leadership	High	Yes
Ron Brown Scholar Program	$10,000/yr, $40,000 total	Expected ~Jan 9, 2027 (confirm)	Black/African American senior	High	Yes
Jackie Robinson Foundation	Not stated by sponsor	Jan 14, 2027, 5:00 p.m. ET	Citizen, financial need, CSS Profile	Med	Yes
Union Plus Scholarship	$1,000–$4,000	Jan 31, 2027, 11:59 p.m. ET	Child of union member (IBEW)	High	No (may reapply)
NESA Eagle Scout Scholarships	$4,000–$50,000	Feb 1, 2027, 11:59 p.m. CT	Eagle Scout, NESA member	High	Some (Cooke awards)
Pittsburgh ERG Scholarship	$3,000/yr, $12,000 total	Feb 17, 2027	PPS senior, STEM, 3.0+ GPA, need	High	Yes
Kennametal Scholarship Fund	Varies, up to 4 yrs	Feb 17, 2027	SW PA, STEM, 3.25+ GPA, need	High	Yes
Oliver L. Johnson & William A. Lester Families Fund	Avg $20,000 over 4 yrs	Feb 17, 2027	Allegheny Co., 2.5+ GPA, need	Med	Yes
Robert L. Vann Scholarship Fund	Varies	Feb 17, 2027	PPS senior, 2.0+ GPA, need	Med	Yes
American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year	$10,000; 3 × $2,500	Mar 1, 2027 (to PA Dept.)	Eagle Scout, Legion family tie	High	No
Scott & Kim Verplank Foundation	Up to $10,000/yr	Expected ~Apr 15, 2027 (based on prior cycle)	Type 1 diabetes, team athlete, 3.0+ GPA	Med	Yes (4 yrs)
Pittsburgh Promise	Up to $20,000	Expected spring 2027; FAFSA required (confirm)	City resident + PPS since 9th grade, 2.5+ GPA, 90% attendance	High	Yes
PA Kiwanis Foundation – Kiwanian Dependent Child	$2,000	Expected spring 2027 (based on prior cycle)	Child of PA District Kiwanis member	Med	No

The largest stated awards add up to about **$328,000**. That is a ceiling, not a forecast: no student wins every award at the top level.

Scholarship details

Elks Most Valuable Student

- **Summary:** The Elks National Foundation funds one of the largest private scholarship programs in the U.S. It scores seniors on leadership, academics, community involvement and financial need.
- **Award Amount:** 500 four-year awards from $1,000 to $7,500 per year. The top 20 national finalists get $30,000 each.
- **Deadline:** November 12, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PT. **Due tomorrow.**
- **Eligibility:**
  - U.S. citizen high school senior. *Match: citizen, Class of 2027.*
  - Entering a full-time 4-year degree program. *Match: Pitt and Penn State acceptances.*
  - No Elks connection or test scores required.

Burger King Scholars

- **Summary:** The Burger King Foundation, through Scholarship America, funds seniors who show strong grades, work experience and community service. Burger King employment is not required on the general track.
- **Award Amount:** $1,000 to $60,000. Most general-track awards are $1,000 or $5,000. Top awards include up to three $60,000 McLamore WHOPPER Scholarships (3.5+ unweighted GPA). One-time awards.
- **Deadline:** December 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CT. Only the first 30,000 community applications are reviewed, so apply early.
- **Eligibility:**
  - U.S. resident graduating in 2027 with a 2.0+ GPA. *Match: 3.85 GPA.*
  - Full-time enrollment in 2027–28; financial need is considered.
  - *Match: part-time job at Giant Eagle, food bank volunteering.*

GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship

- **Summary:** GE Aerospace and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation reward seniors who show leadership, drive, integrity and citizenship. Selection is merit-first; finances are one factor.
- **Award Amount:** $10,000 per year, renewable for up to 3 more years ($40,000 total).
- **Deadline:** January 7, 2027, 3:00 p.m. ET.
- **Eligibility:**
  - U.S. citizen senior with a 3.0+ GPA. *Match: 3.85 GPA, rank 5 of 153.*
  - Full-time at a 4-year U.S. college in 2027–28.
  - Leadership and citizenship. *Match: soccer captain 3 years, newspaper editor-in-chief 3 years, Eagle Scout.*

Ron Brown Scholar Program

- **Summary:** Named for the first African American U.S. Secretary of Commerce, this program picks gifted Black students committed to public service and community. Scholars also get lifelong mentoring and networking.

- **Award Amount:** $10,000 per year for 4 years ($40,000).
- **Deadline:** Expected ~January 9, 2027 (based on prior cycles). Some listings show December 1, 2026, so confirm on ronbrown.org this week.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Black/African American U.S. citizen or permanent resident senior. *Match: African American, citizen.*
  - Bound for a 4-year U.S. college; financial need is a factor.
  - *Match: food bank service, Eagle Scout, leadership roles.*

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship

- **Summary:** The Jackie Robinson Foundation gives four-year scholarships plus mentoring and leadership training to students with strong academics and a commitment to service.
- **Award Amount:** The sponsor's page doesn't give an amount. Third-party listings report up to about $35,000 over 4 years.
- **Deadline:** January 14, 2027, 5:00 p.m. ET. The application, recommendation and CSS Profile are all due then.
- **Eligibility:**
  - U.S. citizen senior with academic excellence and leadership. *Match: 3.85 GPA, captain, editor.*
  - Financial need, reviewed case by case. *Note: $95,000 income may limit need-based scoring.*
  - Bound for a JRF-approved 4-year college; athletes not required.

Union Plus Scholarship

- **Summary:** Union Plus, an AFL-CIO benefits group, funds students from union families. Two short essays count for up to half the score.
- **Award Amount:** $1,000 to $4,000, one-time. Students may reapply each year.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 2027, 11:59 p.m. ET.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Dependent child of a current or retired member of a participating union, with 1+ year of continuous membership by May 31, 2027. *Match: father is an IBEW lineman.*
  - Two essays of ~350 words (union relationship; challenge or gratitude).
  - No minimum GPA; 3.0+ recommended.

NESA Eagle Scout Scholarships

- **Summary:** The National Eagle Scout Association offers about 63 awards a year from several endowments. One application covers all of them.
- **Award Amount:** One $50,000 and four $30,000 four-year Cooke awards; 14 each of $10,000, $8,000, $6,000 and $6,000 one-year awards; one $5,000 and one $4,000 award.
- **Deadline:** Portal open December 1, 2026 to February 1, 2027, 11:59 p.m. CT.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Eagle Scout and current NESA member. *Match: Eagle Scout; join NESA before applying.*
  - Eagle Board of Review on or before January 24, 2027.
  - Full-time (12+ credits) degree or trade program; one NESA award per lifetime.

Pittsburgh ERG Scholarship Fund

- **Summary:** Created by Microsoft's Pittsburgh employee resource group at The Pittsburgh Foundation, it supports city students headed into technology fields, with preference for students with disabilities.
- **Award Amount:** $3,000 per year for up to 4 years ($12,000).
- **Deadline:** Application open January 6 to February 17, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Pittsburgh Public Schools senior living in the city. *Match: Obama Academy, Pittsburgh 15226.*
  - STEM major, 3.0+ GPA, leadership, financial need. *Match: Electrical Engineering, 3.85 GPA.*
  - Preference for students with disabilities. *Match: diabetes may qualify; ask the Foundation.*

Kennametal Scholarship Fund

- **Summary:** Funded through The Pittsburgh Foundation, this award broadens access to STEM for Southwestern Pennsylvania students facing barriers to educational achievement.
- **Award Amount:** Varies; multi-year, up to 4 years.
- **Deadline:** Application open January 6 to February 17, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Graduating senior in one of 9 SW PA counties, including Allegheny. *Match: Allegheny County.*
  - Full-time 4-year STEM degree, 3.25+ GPA. *Match: Electrical Engineering, 3.85 GPA.*
  - Sports, activities or volunteering, plus financial need. *Match: soccer, clubs, food bank.*

Oliver L. Johnson & William A. Lester Families Fund

- **Summary:** Established by African American donors at The Pittsburgh Foundation, this fund supports regional students with academic ability and leadership who face systemic barriers.
- **Award Amount:** Average $20,000 over 4 years.
- **Deadline:** Application open January 6 to February 17, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Graduating senior in Allegheny or 6 nearby counties, 2.5+ GPA. *Match: Allegheny County, 3.85 GPA.*
  - Financial need required. *Note: need is judged from the FAFSA.*

Robert L. Vann Scholarship Fund

- **Summary:** This fund honors Robert L. Vann, publisher of the Pittsburgh Courier. It has supported Black Pittsburgh Public Schools graduates since 1967.
- **Award Amount:** Varies; renewable.
- **Deadline:** Application open January 6 to February 17, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Pittsburgh Public High School senior, 2.0+ GPA. *Match: Obama Academy.*
  - Financial need; preference for students facing systemic barriers.

American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year

- **Summary:** The American Legion honors one outstanding Eagle Scout nationally each year. Nominations go through each state department first.
- **Award Amount:** $10,000 for the winner; three $2,500 runner-up awards. The winner also attends the Legion's national convention.
- **Deadline:** Nominations open November 1; packets due to the Pennsylvania Department by March 1, 2027.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Eagle Scout, nominated through the state Legion department. *Match: Eagle Scout.*
  - Third-party listings say nominees need a parent or grandparent in the Legion. *Match: father is a Legion member*. They also say a Scouts BSA religious emblem is required. Confirm with the PA Department.
  - Award must be used within 4 years of graduation.

Scott & Kim Verplank Foundation

- **Summary:** The Scott and Kim Verplank Foundation helps student-athletes with type 1 diabetes afford college. It looks for students who manage the condition well.
- **Award Amount:** Up to $10,000 per year, renewable up to 4 years.
- **Deadline:** Expected ~April 15, 2027 (based on prior cycle; last cycle opened January 1).
- **Eligibility:**
  - Senior with a **childhood diagnosis of type 1 diabetes**. *Form says "Diabetes" without the type; confirm.*
  - Active on an organized athletic team. *Match: soccer captain.*
  - U.S. citizen, 3.0+ GPA. *Match: 3.85 GPA.*

Pittsburgh Promise

- **Summary:** The Promise is a last-dollar scholarship for Pittsburgh Public Schools graduates. It covers costs left after other grants. The Class of 2028 is the last eligible class, so John's class still qualifies.
- **Award Amount:** Up to $20,000.
- **Deadline:** Expected spring 2027. FAFSA is required every year; confirm senior-year steps with the Promise coach or info@pittsburghpromise.org.
- **Eligibility:**
  - City of Pittsburgh resident and PPS student continuously since 9th grade. *Match: 12 years at the address; Obama Academy.*
  - Unweighted GPA 2.5+ and 90%+ attendance. *Match: 3.85 GPA.*
  - Last-dollar: other scholarships are applied first.

PA Kiwanis Foundation – Kiwanian Dependent Child

- **Summary:** The Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation honors a graduating senior whose parent belongs to a PA District Kiwanis club. It rewards leadership, service and academics.
- **Award Amount:** $2,000, one year.
- **Deadline:** Expected spring 2027 (based on prior cycle; winners notified in July).
- **Eligibility:**

- Dependent child of a PA District Kiwanis member. *Match: father is a Kiwanis member.*
- 2.5+ GPA, leadership and service. *Match: 3.85 GPA, NHS, Eagle Scout.*
- Ask Mr. Smith's club too; many local Kiwanis clubs offer their own awards.

Notes

Act this week. Elks MVS closes November 12. The Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship closed today, November 11, 2026. It also needs a 3.75+ unweighted GPA and family income of $95,000 or less, so John would have been at the income limit.

Missing form details that would unlock more matches:

- **Graduation date** reads "06/2-". This report assumes June 2027 (Fall 2027 start).
- **Diabetes type.** Type 1 opens the Verplank Foundation and other type 1 diabetes awards. A documented condition may also earn preference for the Pittsburgh ERG award.
- **Father's IBEW local number.** Many IBEW locals in the area run their own scholarships for members' children. Ask the local hall.
- **Parents' Kiwanis club and American Legion post.** Local clubs and posts often have their own awards that never show up online.
- **FAFSA / CSS Profile status, AP/honors courses, career goal and test subscores.** Several need-based funds score on the FAFSA. Jackie Robinson requires the CSS Profile.
- **Religious emblem in Scouting.** This may be required for the Legion Eagle Scout of the Year award.

Considered but left out: The Western Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund (Pittsburgh Foundation) requires Pell eligibility, which is unlikely at $95,000. The Beyond Scholars diabetes program is not opening new cycles. The Carnegie Robotics Black Engineering award is inactive. Ancient Order of Hibernians awards (Irish heritage) require a parent who is a member.

Open later in the year (watch for): Pittsburgh Foundation's common application (one form covers the Vann, Lester, Kennametal and ERG funds) opens January 6, 2027. PHEAA State Grant eligibility comes from the FAFSA. Also check spring departmental awards from Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering and Penn State's College of Engineering, including trombone/band awards for the music minor.

General tips:

- File the FAFSA early. The Pittsburgh Promise and most Pittsburgh Foundation funds depend on it.
- Meet with the Obama Academy counselor and Promise coach. Ask about school-only awards and the Promise timeline.
- Ask Pitt and Penn State about institutional merit aid for an accepted engineering student ranked 5 of 153.
- Reuse essays across awards. Leadership (captain, editor-in-chief), service (food bank, Eagle project) and the union-family story each fit several applications.

Research service only. Awards are not guaranteed, and all details should be confirmed with each provider before applying.

Sources

- Elks National Foundation – MVS FAQ
- Elks – Most Valuable Student
- Scholarship America – Burger King Scholars
- Reagan Foundation – GE-Reagan Scholarship
- Ron Brown Scholar Program – FAQ
- Jackie Robinson Foundation – Become a JRF Scholar
- Union Plus Scholarships
- National Eagle Scout Association – Scholarships
- Pittsburgh Foundation – Pittsburgh ERG Scholarship Fund
- Pittsburgh Foundation – Kennametal Scholarship Fund
- Pittsburgh Foundation – Oliver L. Johnson & William A. Lester Families Fund
- Pittsburgh Foundation – Robert L. Vann Scholarship Fund
- Pittsburgh Foundation – Western PA Scholarship Fund
- American Legion – Eagle Scout of the Year
- BigFuture – Scott & Kim Verplank Foundation Scholarship
- Pittsburgh Promise – Eligibility
- Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation – Scholarships
- Beyond Type 1 – Beyond Scholars update