



2026 Sagebrush Circuit Lew and Jo Eklund Scholarship Application Information

The Appaloosa Youth Foundation awards scholarships to outstanding youth members of the Appaloosa Horse Club or Appaloosa Youth Association wishing to pursue higher education. Scholarships are awarded annually, with the entire amount paid to the financial office of the college or university the student will be attending. The entire award is paid at the beginning of the student's first semester; it is non-transferable from the recipient; and must be used within one year. **Each applicant may only apply for one Sagebrush Circuit. Completed applications must be received in the AYF Scholarship Application Coordinator no later than April 15, 2026.**

Sagebrush Circuit Scholarship

One \$2,000 scholarship may be awarded to a college junior, senior, or graduate student pursuing a degree in an **Equine-Related field**. The applicant must be currently maintaining a GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or 5.2 on a 6.0 scale.

Eligibility

Each applicant must be a current member of the Appaloosa Horse Club or the Appaloosa Youth Association to be eligible to apply for an Appaloosa Youth Foundation scholarship. Students who are in the immediate family of an employee, representative, or national director of the ApHC or the AYF are not eligible to apply.

Criteria

Each application is carefully reviewed by a qualified panel of educators selected by the Appaloosa Youth Foundation. Scores based upon scholastic aptitude, leadership potential, the ability to communicate community and civic responsibilities, financial need content, and presentation. Evidence of involvement in the Appaloosa industry, along with general knowledge of and accomplishments in horsemanship are also considered. Scoring is done in the following categories:

- *Scholastic Achievements
- *Presentations and following all instructions on the scholarship application
- *Essay
- *Demonstrated financial need
- *Extra-curricular and civic activities

*****The AYF reserves the right to vary the number of scholarships awarded based upon the quality of entries as scored by the judges and the funds available***Because of the degree of completion and difficulty of acquired skills that are represented, it is to each applicant's advantage to submit a neat, readable, timely and informative application adhering the rules and specifications of the application.**

2026 Sagebrush Circuit Lew and Jo Eklund Scholarship Requirements

1. The applicant must be a college or university upper classman (junior or senior) or graduate student and must be pursuing an equine-related field.
2. To apply for this scholarship, the applicant must have maintained a GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or at least a 5.2 on a 6.0 scale.
3. The application must be completed on an official AYF application and must be filled out by the person applying for the scholarship. You may add supplemental pages if there is not enough space provided.
4. An official academic transcript from the applicant's most recent college semester/quarter must accompany the application. An official academic transcript must be sealed and be sent directly from the applicant's school and may not be simply copied and mailed by the student.
5. Proof of future enrollment in graduate school, or as a junior or senior for the 2026-2027 academic year in the applicant's choice of an institute of higher education is required with the application.
6. A current photograph of the applicant must be attached to the application. **The photo must be on photo quality paper.** No color copies or scanned photos will be accepted. The photo and application will become property of the AYA and will not be returned.
7. Three letters of personal recommendation must be mailed separately from the application to the AYF office at the address listed below, postmarked no later than **April 15, 2026**. It is suggested that the letters address the applicant's scholastic career, community involvement, and participation in equine events and organizations. These letters may be from instructors, colleagues, youth leaders, or other qualified persons. Letters from relatives are not accepted.
8. All applications must be completed and received by the AYF Scholarship Application Coordinator no later than **April 15, 2026**, to be considered by the scholarship selection committee. Mail application and materials to: **Appaloosa Youth Foundation, 115 N. Morningside Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83402 208.201.1953.**