

National Wrestling Hall of Fame – Florida

Girls Next Level Scholarship Program Application



PURPOSE

- The mission of the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame is to promote and strengthen the sport of wrestling in Florida. We do this by preserving the history of Florida wrestling, recognizing our excellence, and inspiring future generations to learn from our great sport.
- As a state chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Florida Chapter carries forth the goals of our national organization by celebrating the excellence of wrestlers, coaches, officials, and other contributors to Florida wrestling.
- Deserving individuals are recognized through induction into the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, or through special awards bestowed upon them with the assistance of the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.
- Inductees are enshrined in the State Chapter Gallery of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Museum in Stillwater OK. In the museum, our inductees take their rightful place alongside other wrestling giants who have contributed to the sport of wrestling.
- The purpose of the Next Level Scholarship Program is to highlight the early accomplishments of Florida high school wrestlers in hopes that it will inspire them to continue to achieve at the highest levels in college, career, and military service.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a current high school senior
- Must be a FHSAA State Qualifier
- Must attend the 2026 FHSAA State Tournament
- Must plan to wrestle in college (NCAA, NAIA, NCWA)
- Must have an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Must complete 75 hours or more of community service
- Must complete an essay with a minimum of 300 words and a maximum of 500 words
- Must provide one academic reference letter from a teacher
- Must provide one personal reference letter from an adult of applicant's choice
- Must provide one character reference letter from principal or assistant principal

GUIDELINES

In order to be eligible for a one-time scholarship award of \$1,000.00, you must submit the following by mail to by no later than February 1, 2026: To: National Wrestling Hall of Fame Florida Chapter

Attn: Jeff Malavsky, Director of Development 8383 Silver Birch Way Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

- **Unweighted GPA**– Must submit proof in the form of an official high school transcript (does not need to be sealed) or a letter on official school letterhead signed by principal or assistant principal
- **Community Service** - Must provide signed letter(s) indicating completion of 75 hours or more of community service
- **Essay** - Write an essay with a minimum of 300 words and a maximum of 500 words. Essay may not contain any identifying information due to blind review process. Identifying information, including but not limited to name, name of school or mascot, hometown, name of coach or coaches, may result in disqualification from consideration for scholarship.
- **Reference Letters**
 - Signed letter from a teacher providing an academic reference and contact information for possible follow-up phone call or email
 - Signed letter from an adult of applicant's choice providing a personal reference and contact information for possible follow-up phone call or email
 - Signed letter from principal or assistant principal providing a character reference and contact information for possible follow-up phone call or email

ESSAY PROMPT

Please attach to your application two printed copies of your essay responses adhering to the style guide below. Applicants must provide a response for each of the three essay prompts.

Font Type: Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial

Font Size: 12 Point

Line Spacing: Double spaced

Margins: 1" on all sides

Word Count: Minimum 300, Maximum 500 words total

- **PAST:** Explain how your high school wrestling career has shaped who you are as a person, both on and off the mat. How did wrestling impact your academic and personal life? What are the most important lessons that wrestling taught you?
- **PRESENT:** Explain what you plan to take from your high school wrestling career with you into your college career. How do you plan to apply the lessons you learned? What are some positive habits that you have developed because of your high school wrestling career?
- **FUTURE:** Explain how you plan to give back to wrestling once your competitive career is complete. What are you doing to give back now that you plan to continue? What opportunities are there that remain unexplored?

DO NOT include your name, the name of your school, the name of your coach, or any other identifying information. A blind review process is in place for scoring essays and identifying information may compromise this process and result in disqualification from consideration.

TIMEFRAMES

Applications postmarked after February 1, 2026, will not be considered for eligibility.

February 1, 2026	Submit application and supporting documentation (finalist will be notified after regional tournament)
March 2026	Finalists recognized at FHSAA State Tournament (must be present in order to receive award)
August 2026	Submit letter on official letter head from college wrestling coach, college admissions department, college financial aid department, or a signed letter of intent

APPLICATION

Applicant Name _____	Weight Class _____
Address _____	Phone Number _____
_____	Email _____
_____	Parent Name _____
School Name _____	Coach _____
Address _____	Phone Number _____
_____	Email _____
_____	Principal Name _____

Eligibility requirements shall apply to all applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, or disability.

By signing below, I attest that all information provided is accurate and I understand that providing false information may result in disqualification from consideration for a scholarship award.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

For NWHOF - Florida Use Only

Reviewed: _____ Initials _____ Date _____ Number _____