

THE COLUMBIANS

An Italian American Philanthropic Organization

2026 Scholarship Application

The Columbians is a New Jersey-based Italian-American Philanthropic Organization. Since our founding in 1982, we have provided over \$2,000,000 in scholarship and financial hardship assistance to citizens of Northern New Jersey.

Our organization provides scholarships for students from \$1,000 to \$5,000 annually. In addition, the *Columbians* often provide ongoing financial support to college students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance and financial need.

Although consideration for our scholarship award is available to all senior students residing in Bergen or Passaic County, we are particularly interested in students who not only demonstrate excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, service to their community, and financial need but also demonstrate an interest in Italian heritage, art, music, or culture.

Applications must be fully completed and received by May 1, 2026. We cannot consider incomplete applications or those not received on time.

Scholarship Application of The Columbians

Celebrating the Italian Culture

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANT

1. All questions must be answered. If the answer is none, so indicate.
2. **YOU MUST USE THE FORM PROVIDED TO RESPOND. ESSAYS MUST BE TYPED.** You may paste your essay or use a separate piece of paper. Do not exceed the space provided or half a page using separate paper.
3. Print legibly or type all other answers.
4. Please supply one (1) reference letter with the completed application.
5. Please read carefully and sign the final page with all required signatures.
6. Forward the following to the address below:
 - a. completed application;
 - b. reference letter;
 - c. Proof of financial need (either a copy of your parent's **IRS Form 1040**, including schedules A & B from the most recent year, or the **FAFSA Submission Summary**. PLEASE REDACT ANY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS;
 - d. Transcript (unofficial is acceptable); and
 - e. SAT / ACT Score Report (pdf from College Board).
7. Do not use binders or staples; clip all papers to the application.
8. Mail the completed application and correspondence to the address below.

YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE RETURNED. MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR RECORDS. NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS TO APPLICANTS WILL BE MADE BY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION ONLY. NO CALLS, PLEASE.

The Columbians
302 Union Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601

ALL APPLICANTS & REQUIREMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2025

APPLICANT

Applicant's Full Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone () _____
High School _____ Expected Graduation Date ___/___/___
Date of Birth ___/___/___

Parent Information

Father's Full Name _____ Living _____ Deceased _____
Father's Occupation _____ Approximate Annual Income _____
Father's Name of Employer _____
Mother's Birth Name _____ Living _____ Deceased _____
Mother's Occupation _____ Approximate Annual Income _____
Mother's Name of Employer _____
*Please include amounts due from alimony support maintenance or child support payments.

I learned about The Columbians Scholarship from: _____

Optional

Please share your Italian heritage (e.g., my grandfather was born in Laurenzana, Basilicata, Italy, and emigrated to the US in 1921).

Residence Information

I Reside With (Check One) Family _____ Other _____

The Home in Which I Live Is (check one) Owned _____ Rented _____

Years At Present Address _____

List All Family Members Living At Above Address

Name	Relation	Age
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List Colleges You Have Applied To, Or Intend To Apply To In Order of Preference
If You Have Already Been Accepted And Have Been Assigned A Student Number Please Indicate

1. _____ Accepted _____ Student # _____

2. _____ Accepted _____ Student # _____

3. _____ Accepted _____ Student # _____

4. _____ Accepted _____ Student # _____

5. _____ Accepted _____ Student # _____

Major Field of Intended Study _____

Career Goal or Ambition _____

Estimated Cost of College Education per Academic Year _____

This Does _____ Does Not _____ Include Living Expenses

Extracurricular, Community, Church, and Hobby Information

List Your Extracurricular, Community, and Church Activities, Lengths of Participation, and Offices Held
(You may attach your resume.)

School _____ _____ _____ _____	Community _____ _____ _____ _____
Church _____ _____	Hobbies _____ _____
Awards _____	

Employment Information

Are You Currently Employed? _____ Yes _____ No
If Yes, Where _____
Current Position _____
Approximate Hours Worked Per Week _____

Other Scholarships

Are you receiving any other scholarships? _____ Yes _____ No

If Yes, list:

Please answer the following two essay questions. Attach your essays to your application.

Essay #1

Please share what you value about Italian heritage, art, music, or culture. Or share an Italian-American you admire and why? (300 word max.)

Essay #2

Please explain why Christopher Columbus is important to many Italian-Americans. (300 word max.)

Please Note:

All the information appearing on this application will be treated in the strictest confidence. Any inaccuracies will automatically disqualify the applicant from consideration. The decision of the Philanthropic Committee will be final. Publication of the relative merits of the candidates will not be made.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US IN OUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. Please attach a completed copy of your family's IRS Form 1040 to your application, including schedules A&B for the previous year or the FAFSA Submission Summary. Please attach additional sheets if you feel additional information would benefit your application. If you wish to send your financial information to us separate from this application form, you may do so.

We, by the signatures below, attest to the truthfulness of all the statements made in this application and understand the contents thereof:

Applicant Signature & Date

Father's Signature & Date

Mother's Signature & Date

Guardian's Signature & Date

Address All Correspondences and Return All Applications To:

THE COLUMBIANS
302 Union Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601