



The Michael Paulson Scholarship Award

Application opens on August 18, 2026, and the final deadline to submit the application is August 25, 2026.

About

1. The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina will be awarding six (6) \$5,000 scholarships to current college/university students actively enrolled in memory of Mr. Michael Paulson. Scholarships will be awarded to current sophomores or higher attending an accredited four-year college/university or students currently pursuing a master's degree or higher.
2. The Lumbee Tribe maintains and holds the right to keep the selection process confidential and will **not** discuss or disclose this process with any applicants.
3. A save the date with application instructions will be posted on **July 17, 2026**.
4. Submission period will open from **8:00 am August 18, 2026, to 11:59 pm August 25, 2026**. Please follow submission directions carefully.
5. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for the Michael Paulson Scholarship award.** An application will be deemed incomplete if it is not fully completed, is missing any required documents, and/or if the required documents are not submitted in the specified file format. **No exceptions** will be made.
6. Recipients of the Michael Paulson Scholarship will be informed by **September 12, 2026**. Recipients will be notified via phone call and award letter.
7. If you are selected to receive the Michael Paulson Scholarship you will be required to provide proof of current full-time enrollment at your college/university within seven (7) business days of your award notice. Failure to provide proof of enrollment will result in your forfeiture of the scholarship award.
8. When proof of current full-time enrollment at college/university has been verified, recipients will receive award within two business weeks.

Requirements

1. Applicants **must** be an active enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Active enrolled members are defined as: having an unexpired up-to-date Lumbee tribal enrollment card. Expired or pending cards will **not** be accepted.
2. Applicants **must** be a full-time student enrolled in an accredited 4-year college/university or pursuing a master's degree or higher. Full-time student is defined as 12 plus credit hours when receiving an undergraduate degree. For masters and higher education full-time students will be defined by your institution's definition of full-time student.
3. Applicants **must** have at least a minimum GPA of 2.7.
4. Applicants **must** submit their most recent official transcript from their institution's registrar's office. Copies of college transcripts will **not** be accepted. Most recent is defined as a transcript reflecting that applicant's current semester.
5. Applicants **must** submit a video no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes. This video should demonstrate the applicant's professionalism and knowledge of the Lumbee Tribal Government and leaders. Applicants should be the only ones in this video. This video should be saved and submitted as a MP4 file.
6. Applicants are required to submit written responses to two of the three essay prompts provided. Each essay must be a minimum of 250 words, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced. Completed essays should be saved and submitted as a PDF file.
7. Applicants **must** submit their resume in PDF format.
8. Applicants **must** submit two letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should be typed and signed by the individual writing the recommendation letter. Letters of recommendations should not be written by any immediate family member (spouse, parent, sibling, grandparents, grandchildren). One letter of recommendation **must** be written by an academic professional (professor, advisor, former teacher, etc.). Letters of recommendations should be saved and submitted as PDF files.

Directions

1. Please fill out the Michael Paulson Scholarship Application below. **Make sure you have read all directions, requirements, and questions carefully before submitting.**
2. Application, documents, and files are required to be submitted via email to MichaelPaulsonaward@lumbeetribe.com. The subject line should state "Michael Paulson Award Scholarship-Your First and Last name". Example: "Michael Paulson Award Scholarship-John Doe"

Do Not Retype Application (retyped applications will NOT be considered)

Name: _____
First MI Last

Physical Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Mailing Address
if different than physical: _____
Street/PO Box City State Zip

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth (State, County): _____

Unweighted GPA: _____ Email Address: _____

Declared Tribal District: _____ Tribal Enrollment Number: _____

University/College Attending: _____ Major: _____

Anticipated Degree: _____ Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Please provide information on the following:

1. Copy of Resume in .pdf format
2. Official Transcript (**unofficial copies of transcripts will not be accepted**).
3. Copy of Class Schedule
4. Certificate of full-time enrollment provided by your institution
5. Copy of active Tribal Card
6. Two (2) signed letters of recommendation in .pdf format
7. 3-to-5-minute video discussing the Lumbee Tribe Government and leaders in a MP4 file
8. Answers for two required essays in PDF format

Essay Topics : Please respond to two of the three essay prompts below. Your responses will be used for evaluation and ranking of your scholarship application. Each essay must be a minimum of 250 words, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced. Completed essays should be saved and submitted as a PDF file.

Essay topic 1: How do you plan on using your degree to impact and support the Lumbee Tribal Community?

Essay topic 2: How do you view your role as a future leader in the Lumbee Tribal community in preserving and protecting Lumbee Tribal sovereignty and culture.

Essay topic 3: Michael Paulson was known for his adventurous spirit and generous contributions to communities around the world. If selected for this scholarship, what philanthropic initiative would you undertake to support both your local community and Indigenous communities globally, in a way that honors Mr. Paulson's legacy?