



Virginia OSIA Foundation 2026 Scholarships

The Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) is the largest and longest-established national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States.

Established in 1905 as a mutual aid society for the early Italian immigrants, today OSDIA has more than 50,000 members and supporters and a network of more than 650 chapters coast to coast, making it the leading service and advocacy organization for the nation's estimated 26 million people of Italian descent.

Its missions include encouraging the study of Italian language and culture in American schools and universities; preserving Italian American traditions, culture, history and heritage; and promoting closer cultural relations between the United States and Italy.

Scholarships

The Virginia OSIA Foundation is pleased to announce that two academic excellence-based scholarships totaling \$2,000 are available for the 2026- 2027 academic year.. The Foundation encourages eligible and deserving students to apply for any or all of these scholarships.

Rules and Regulations of the 2026 Scholarships:

In order to be **eligible for the scholarships**, the following must be met at the time the scholarship application is submitted and be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Virginia OSIA Foundation.

1. **Applicant must be a U.S. citizen of Italian heritage with at least one Italian or Italian-American parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent who is a member of a local lodge of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, OSDIA.**
2. For the Linwood Sykes Memorial Scholarship and the John F Asiello Scholarship, applicants must be **accepted into or currently enrolled** in a full-time undergraduate (four year minimum) or graduate degree program in any course of study at an accredited institution of higher learning.
3. Applicant is not required to be a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Deadline:

The scholarship application consists of items 1-16; all required materials must be in one package and **postmarked no later than April 15, 2026** and filed with the Scholarship Committee Chair. Transcripts may be mailed separately but must be **postmarked** by April 15, 2026. **Applications and required materials postmarked after April 15, 2026, will not be accepted under any circumstance.**

IMPORTANT: Applications are screened, and final selection is made by the Grand Lodge of Virginia Scholarship Committee. Scholarship **WINNERS ONLY** will be notified by April 30, 2026. Winners will be officially recognized in June 2026 at a ceremony in Richmond, Virginia. Monetary awards are presented directly to the student's academic institution.



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Amount of Awards for 2026:

The amount of the scholarship awards varies from year to year based upon available funding. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to award partial scholarships to several candidates, the total of which will not exceed \$2,000 or \$1,000 for each scholarship. The scholarship awards are one-time annual awards for the specified academic year. Previous winners are not eligible.

1. The Linwood Sykes Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000.00
2. The John Asiello Scholarship for \$1,000

Applications from candidates for an award are subject to the following rules and regulations. **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.** Applications without the required information will **NOT** be considered.

Information required from applicant at the time the scholarship application is submitted:

1. Submit completed application form signed and dated by the applicant.
2. Provide the name and address of the academic institution for which you will be registered in 2026-27 on the application form. The applicant will certify that you are accepted into or currently enrolled in a four-year degree-seeking undergraduate program or a post-graduate program at the named academic institution with your signature on the application form.
3. Provide names and contact information of three references.
4. Submit one **official transcript** from each academic institution attended through December, 2025. All transcripts must be stamped by the institution and included in a separate, sealed envelope. You may submit transcripts with entire application package; however, we understand some schools prefer to send them separately.
 - a. High school students: submit high school transcript.
 - b. Undergraduate: submit high school and undergraduate transcripts.
 - c. Graduates: submit undergraduate and graduate transcripts. If your first year as a graduate student will be Fall, 2026, please specify.
5. Submit proof of age that the applicant is or will be **18 years of age** at the time of the use of the scholarship. (Photocopy of birth certificate or driver's license is acceptable.)
6. Submit resume of extracurricular activities, work experience, volunteer service, and honors.



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Submit statements:

- a. Submit a typewritten original personal statement of 50-100 words outlining your academic and professional goals.
- b. Submit a typewritten statement of 50-100 words about your Italian American heritage.

Other notifications:

1. **Withdrawal of Award** – The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to withdraw the award in the following circumstances:
 - a. The applicant does not attend the academic institution named in the application.
 - b. The applicant fails to obtain approval for an alternate academic institution from the Scholarship Committee.
2. **Deferral of Award** – If the applicant is unable to attend the approved academic institution because of illness, the Scholarship Committee will consider the circumstances and may defer or extend the payment of the award for a period not to exceed one year from the date the award was due to be paid.
3. **Payment of Award** – The award will be made jointly payable to the applicant and to the academic institution designated by the applicant. Monetary awards are presented directly to students' academic institutions. Before the scholarship is paid, the recipient is **required to write a formal thank you letter** naming the specific scholarship and mailed to the Scholarship Committee Chair. Applicant may be requested to provide identification such as social security or student ID numbers as required by the academic institution. Student must provide written proof of enrollment for the current academic year.
4. **Awards Ceremony** – Winners will be officially recognized at a ceremony in Richmond, Virginia in June, 2026. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to change the award date & venue, provided the applicant is notified ten days before the award is given. The award recipient is strongly requested, but not required, to receive the award in person.
5. **Previous Award and Eligibility** – The Scholarship Committee may not make an award to a previous recipient of a Virginia OSIA Foundation Scholarship.
6. **Where to Apply** – The application and all required documents must be filed with the Scholarship Committee Chair **postmarked no later than April 15, 2026**. The application, required documents, and all correspondence shall be addressed to:

Kathy A Drummond, Chair
Grand Lodge of Virginia
OSDIA Scholarship Committee
9211 Placid Street
Manassas, VA 20110-4230



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2026 Scholarship Application

I hereby enter my application as a candidate for the annual scholarships to be awarded by the Virginia OSIA Foundation, and open to any student of Italian-American heritage, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Virginia Scholarship Committee. I acknowledge that I have read the rules and regulations attached to this application and agree to the terms stated.

Signature

Date

I am applying for the following scholarships:

- The Linwood Sykes Memorial Scholarship
- The John Asiello Scholarship

General Information

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____

3. Telephone Number: _____

4. Email Address: _____

5. Date of Birth: _____

6. Father's Name: _____ Phone # _____

7. Mother's Name: _____ Phone # _____

8. Identify your Italian heritage:

Father Mother Both Other

Family Name(s)



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Provide the name and family relation of the member(s) of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America:

a. Name of OSDIA member and relationship: _____

b. Name and location of their OSDIA Lodge: _____

9. References (Furnish names and contact information – telephone or e-mail - of three references that are not related to you):

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

10. Name any scholarship award received from any OSDIA or SIF Scholarship Fund:

a. Scholarship name: _____

b. Date of award: _____

c. OSDIA or SIF Fund or Foundation:

Academic Information

11. Name and address of academic institution that you will attend in 2026-2027:

12. Certify that you are accepted into or currently enrolled in a four-year, degree-seeking undergraduate or post-graduate program at the named academic institution for 2026-2027.

13.

Signature affirming acceptance in academic institution named above.



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High School Students (Submit one official transcript and complete the following):

- a. Name of High School: _____
- b. Year of Graduation: _____
- c. Class rank: _____
- d. Class size: _____
- e. Weighted GPA (if available): _____
- f. Un-weighted GPA (if available): _____
- g. ACT or SAT results: _____

14. Undergraduates (Submit one official transcript from high school and undergraduate academic institutions and complete the following):

- a. Name of High School: _____
- b. Year of Graduation: _____
- c. ACT or SAT results taken during the last five years: _____
- d. Name of Undergraduate School: _____

15. Graduate Student (Submit one official transcript from undergraduate academic institution and complete the following):

- a. Name of Undergraduate School: _____
- b. Year of Graduation: _____
- c. SAT results and any GMAT, GRE, LSAT, or MCAT results taken during the last five years: _____
- d. Name of Graduate School: _____



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Signature

Date

Required submittals (Check-off below to assure documents are attached).

Completed application

- Official Transcripts
 Included
 Sent by academic institution
- Proof of age
- SAT/ACT scores (copy)
- Resume (CV)
- Personal statement
- Heritage Statement
- Notice of Enrollment from University or/College

16. Where did you hear about this Scholarship? _____

For Committee Use Only:

Date application received: _____

Date of committee consideration: _____

Award granted: _____ Award denied: _____

Signature of Committee Chair: _____