

NAACP

Cherokee County Georgia Branch #5651B



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Dear Students, Parents, and Friends of the Cherokee County NAACP:

The Cherokee County NAACP Branch is excited to announce its **STEM Scholarship Program**. The program was developed with the intent of providing assistance and resources to students living in Cherokee County who wish to pursue college or career readiness programs beyond high school. *Once again, scholarships are in the form of laptop computers to be awarded to one graduating senior from each of Cherokee County School District's seven high schools.*

Applicant must be an African American who is planning to attend an accredited/certified, post-secondary institution, and is planning to pursue coursework in a STEM related field. The attached document fully outlines the application process. The deadline to submit all parts of the application is by 5 pm on September 5, 2025. All applicants will be notified of the status/outcome of their application by September 12, 2025.

The Cherokee County NAACP Branch is a nonprofit organization whose members work to promote civil rights and social justice within the community. We aspire to create a footprint in the community not only through our advocacy work, but also by our philanthropic contributions to our community.

We encourage the financial support of corporations, companies, families, private trusts, and individuals wishing to join us in this initiative to honor and assist those who are the future of the Cherokee County community.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any phase of the NAACP's work to assist students living in Cherokee County.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lee Williams

Sandra Lee Williams
Fund Founder and 2nd Vice President

Archie Doswell

Archie Doswell
President



2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM AND INFORMATION

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to the *Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship Program* **must** meet the following eligibility requirements:

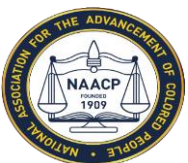
- **US Citizen residing in Cherokee County, Ga,**
- **Current Cherokee County School District high school senior**
- **An African American**
- **GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4-point scale**
- **Plan to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited/certified institution**
- **Plan to pursue coursework in a STEM-related field (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics)**

Note: Applicant is not required to be a member of the Cherokee County NAACP Unit; however, applicant might consider joining a Chapter's Youth Program in the area or at the post-secondary institution of attendance.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria used to select award recipients include academic performance, character, educational and career goals, and an interview. **Each of these criteria carries equal weight in determining who will receive an award.**

- *Academic performance* is determined by evaluating the high school transcript released to the NAACP by the applicant. Applicants must possess a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent.
- *Character* will be assessed using references provided by individuals the applicant selects. **PERSONAL REFERENCES FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- *Educational and career goals* (with a STEM focus) will be evaluated through examination of an essay written by the student and by interview questions.
- Applicants **must** participate in an interview conducted by the STEM Scholarship Selection Committee. The interview will allow the committee to personally meet the student and to ask additional/clarifying questions.



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DESCRIPTION OF AWARD

Each award will be a **Laptop Computer** provided to the selected students. An award is being offered to *one graduating senior from each of Cherokee County School District's seven high schools*. In the event there are no applicants from a high school, it is the sole discretion of the Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship Selection Committee to determine if and how the award will be used. The laptop computer's make, model and specifications is determined by the Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship Selection Committee.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

All awards will be made during the **Cherokee County NAACP's Freedom Fund Banquet** event to be held on Friday, October 17, 2025, from 7 pm – 10 pm, at The Timbers on Etowah, located at 225 Reformation Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114. **Award recipients are required to attend the event (at no cost) to be recognized and to receive the award.**

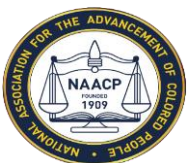
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

There are four essential parts of this application. All parts must be received by the deadline in order for The STEM Scholarship Selection Committee to consider an application. The deadline for completed applications is by 5 pm on September 5, 2025. ***Applicants who do not complete/submit all parts of the application are not eligible for an award.***

All **Parts I, II, III, and IV** (listed below) are to be submitted. Electronic submissions are to be sent to cherokeecountynaacp@gmail.com or mailed to:

Ms. Sandra Lee Williams
225 Parkway 575, Unit 1197
Woodstock, GA 30188

- I. **Application Form** – The Application Form (2 pages) contains basic information about the applicant. All sections of the application form must be completed, ***including*** the applicant's and parent/guardian statement with signatures.
- II. **Official Transcript** - An official grade transcript must show the courses you have taken and the grades awarded. ***It must be dated within 30 days of submission and signed by a counselor or registrar.*** The transcript will allow the STEM Selection Committee to evaluate academic performance. Students should request their transcripts ASAP from their school guidance department. It is acceptable for the transcript to be submitted from the school guidance department.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM AND INFORMATION

NAACP

Cherokee County Georgia Branch #5651B

- III. **Reference Form** – **Two references are required**. Utilize the attached reference form to secure a reference. This reference should come from a person who has first-hand knowledge of your functioning as a student on a regular basis and your character. The NAACP STEM Cherokee County Scholarship Program Committee assumes that recommendations from teachers, guidance counselors, principals, sponsors, coaches and/or other school personnel can better provide information regarding a student's future performance in school than personal recommendations. AS A RESULT, THIS RECOMMENDATION SHOULD COME FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED TYPE INDIVIDUALS. **REFERENCES FROM RELATIVES AND PERSONAL REFERENCES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. It is acceptable for the reference to be submitted directly from the persons completing the reference form.
- IV. **Essay** – All applicants must complete the *REQUIRED ESSAY* as described below. If an applicant's transcript reflects any "D" or "F" grades or withdrawals from a class at any time, the applicant must **also** complete the *CONDITIONAL ESSAY* as described below.

Part A – REQUIRED ESSAY

The Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship Program is making an investment in YOU. *We are interested in assisting you with a successful future. Show us that you have thought about it and are interested in a successful STEM future as well!* As such, the selection committee would like to gain insight into your history as a student, your motivations, and the next steps toward your future.

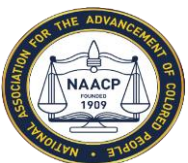
In an essay of approximately 400 words (typed in Times New Roman 12 font with 1' margins or neatly printed), please explain specifically: ·

- **Your Academic focus:** What will be your STEM major, trade profession or field of study? Why did you choose it? How have you prepared for it?
- **Your Proficiency and skill level:** What skills do you possess that make this focus a great match for you?
- **Your Career goal:** What will be your objective immediately upon graduation from your STEM program?
- **Your Future plan:** What actions will you take to achieve that goal or employment?

Part B - CONDITIONAL ESSAY

If your transcript reflects any "D" or "F" grades or withdrawals from a class at any time, please provide an additional essay of approximately 200 words (*typed in Times New Roman 12 font with 1' margins or neatly printed*), to explain specifically: ·

- **What happened?**
- **What did you learn from allowing your grades to slip?**
- **What has changed or what will you do differently in future studies?**



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Cherokee County Georgia Branch #5651B

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The selection committee will meet to review all submitted documents. All applicants will be notified of the status/outcome of their application by September 12, 2025. **Final award recipients will be notified by September 30, 2025.**

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

August 15, 2025	Application forms available from the Cherokee County NAACP Website (www.cherokee-county-ga-naacp.org) and the guidance department of each CCSD high school
August 22, 2025	Suggested deadline for high school students to request grade transcripts from their school's guidance department or school counselor in order to assure it will be received by the STEM Scholarship Committee by September 5, 2025
September 5, 2025	FINAL DEADLINE for all parts of the application for a 2025 Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship award (by 5 pm) Email the application form, references, essay and grade transcripts to cherokee-county-naacp@gmail.com or mail directly to Ms. Sandra Lee Williams , c/o The Cherokee County NAACP, 225 Parkway 575, Unit 1197, Woodstock, GA 30188
September 12, 2025	All applicants notified of the status/outcome of their application
September 15-28, 2025	Interviews held for applicants meeting the eligibility requirements and submitting complete application packets
September 30, 2025	Official notification sent to award recipients
October 3, 2025	Acceptance forms must be returned by this date if recipients wish to accept the scholarship award. Scholarships not accepted by this date will be awarded to other applicants (if applicable).
October 17, 2025	Laptop Computers will be awarded at the Cherokee County NAACP's Freedom Fund Banquet event to be held on Friday, October 17, 2025 from 7 pm – 10 pm., at The Timbers on Etowah, located at 225 Reformation Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114. Award recipients are <u>required</u> to attend the event (at no cost) to be recognized and to receive the award.

Dates may be modified as needed by the Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship Committee.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM AND INFORMATION

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Cherokee County Georgia Branch #5651B

THE 2025 CHEROKEE COUNTY NAACP STEM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM (page 1)

Application Deadline is September 5, 2025

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Applicant's Name (Last, First and Middle Initial): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Race: ☐ Asian

☐ Black/African American

☐ Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

☐ Indigenous/Native American

☐ White/Caucasian

Ethnicity: ☐ Hispanic

☐ Not Hispanic

U.S. Citizen: ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian #1 (Last Name, First Name): _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian #2 (Last Name, First Name): _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

High School: _____

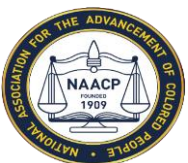
Grade Level: _____ GPA: _____

Are you in a 12th grade homeroom and on-track to graduate in May 2026? ☐ Yes ☐ No

School you plan to attend (College, University, Trade School): _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Certification/Degrees Pursuing: _____



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Cherokee County Georgia Branch #5651B

Application Form (page 2)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Cherokee County NAACP believes in giving back to its community. The STEM Scholarship is just one way we do this. Just as the NAACP provides scholarships to worthy students as one of its commitments to the community, the NAACP values community service from students.

If you have at any time over the last three years of high school, been of service to the community in which you live, please include relevant information regarding this in your essay. If you have not provided previous community service, would you be willing to provide service over the course of the next year to The NAACP community in which you will reside? YES _____ NO _____

If you are selected, and have indicated a willingness to serve, the Cherokee County NAACP will communicate future community service opportunities as they become available.

APPLICANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT

We have read the instruction sheet and this application form and wish to apply for a Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship. We agree to comply with all procedures outlined in the application and we release to the Cherokee County NAACP, the applicant's academic records, as requested.

PERMISSION TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO SPONSORS

The Cherokee County NAACP depends on the generosity of members and donors/sponsors to fund our scholarship program. Please check here if you would be willing to share your story, your progress, and your successes with our Chapter Membership, the Community, and one or more of our donors/sponsors.

YES ____ NO ____

PERMISSION TO PUBLICIZE NAME AND PHOTOGRAPH

If I am awarded a scholarship, I give my permission to use my name, school and/or photograph in publicity releases related to The Cherokee County NAACP STEM Scholarship Program.

PRIVACY POLICY

I further agree that, if I am selected as a scholarship recipient, any information provided by me to the NAACP in connection with this application may be used by the NAACP in promoting its purposes.

Applicant's Name (Print): _____

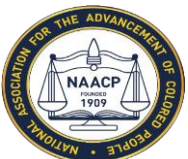
Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date



NAACP

Cherokee County Georgia Branch #5651B

PERSONAL CHARACTER REFERENCE FORM (page 1)

Application Deadline is September 5, 2025

Using this form, please provide a reference from a person who has first-hand knowledge of your functioning as a student on a regular basis. References should come from teachers, guidance counselors, principals, sponsors, coaches and/or other school personnel. **PERSONAL REFERENCES FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Person Completing Reference Form: _____

Telephone Number of Person Providing Reference: _____

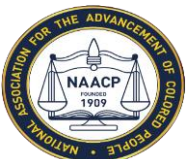
Relationship/role of person providing referral on behalf of the applicant: _____
(Example: Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Coach...)

Part 1: Please indicate the most appropriate response for the applicant you are referring by placing a check mark in the corresponding column. Please consider each item shown below independently from the others listed.

DIMENSION	POOR	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	SATISFACTORY	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT
Dependability					
Honesty					
Perseverance					
Cognitive Aptitude					
Conscientiousness					
Concern for Others					
Leadership					

Part 2: Attach a narrative using page 2 of this reference form or your own letterhead stationery.

Please provide a brief narrative of your thoughts regarding the applicant's personal character. Be sure to mention how you came to know the applicant and how long you have been acquainted with the individual. Other information helpful to the Selection Committee would include your perception of the applicant as a student, your belief in the applicant's ability to successfully pursue a college degree, and any unique characteristics the individual may possess. (Please attach a separate sheet if more space is needed for this narrative.)



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Cherokee County Georgia Branch #5651B

PERSONAL CHARACTER REFERENCE FORM (page 2)

Application Deadline is September 5, 2025

Narrative Statement

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

I attest that the aforementioned reference of is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am not a blood relative or personal friend of this applicant.

Name (Print): _____

Signature

Date _____

Return this form via email to cherokeecountynaacp@gmail.com or mail directly to **Ms. Sandra Lee Williams**, c/o The Cherokee County NAACP, 225 Parkway 575, Unit 1197, Woodstock, GA 30188 by September 5, 2025 (5 pm).

