Red Pine Scholars Program 2026-27

The Philanthropic Initiative: Red Pine

Instructions

Read these instructions **carefully** before filling out your application. Applicants' ability to follow instruction will weigh into award decisions.

- To preview the application, click on the **Question List** button in the upper right-hand corner. *You should do this before you begin the application so you are prepared for the questions.*
- You can save your application and return to it later by clicking "save" and logging out. Your application will be marked *Draft* and you may return to it at any time by logging back into your applicant profile.
- Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required. You will not be able to submit your application until all required questions are answered.
- All attachments **must** be submitted in **.pdf, .doc, or .docx** format.
- All application materials can be found on TPI's website here. There you will also find a checklist to help you keep track of what you need to do to complete your application.
- **To complete the required form**, download the document to your computer and save it to your desktop. Then fill out the form and save the completed form to your computer before uploading it to the application.

- **Important:** be sure to review your application before clicking "submit" to make sure all attachments have been uploaded correctly and your answers are clear. To do this, click on the "Application Packet" button in the top right-hand corner of the page. This will allow you to view your complete application in the form the reviewers will see it. ***Applications that have unreadable attachments or don't load correctly will not be considered. It is very important that you look over your application to make sure everything has been properly submitted.***

- If a form does not successfully save your answers, you can print it out, fill out the answers by hand, and upload a scanned copy to your application.
- Once you submit your application, you will receive an email confirming that we have received it.

If you have any questions or need help uploading forms to your application, please contact Kira Azulay at RedPine@tpi.org or 617-338-5885.

1. Personal Information

Applicant Legal First and Last Name/Given Name*

Please enter your name exactly as it appears on official documents.

Character Limit: 100

Preferred Name or Nickname

Character Limit: 100

In our review process, we take a holistic approach for each student to fully understand their individual context. While we seek to select a diverse group of scholarship recipients every year, questions on identity are not incorporated into the scholarship application review criteria. They help inform our understanding of the demographics of our applicant pool. This information will be kept confidential within the Red Pine Scholars Program team.

Gender- How do you identify?*

Choices

Male
Female
Non-Binary
Prefer to self-describe

If you would like to share more detail on your gender identity, please do so here:

Character Limit: 100

Preferred pronouns*

Choices

She/her/hers
He/him/his
They/them/theirs
Prefer to self-describe

If you would like to share more detail on your preferred pronouns please do so here:

Character Limit: 250

Race/Ethnicity: Which of the following best describes how you identify?*

Your response to the question below is voluntary. We are collecting this information to help ensure that we are reaching a diverse applicant pool. This information will not be used in our scholarship decision-making process.

Choices

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian or Asian American
Black or African American
Hispanic or Latinx
Middle Eastern or North African
Multi-racial
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
White
Other
Prefer not to Answer

Date of Birth*

Example: xx/xx/xxxx

Character Limit: 10

How long have you lived in the U.S.?

number of years

Character Limit: 2

Is English your first language?*

Choices

Yes
No

If not, what is your first language?

Character Limit: 50

How did you hear about the Red Pine Scholarship?*

Choices

High School or Guidance Counselor
Mentor
College access/non-profit staff member
Online
Staff member at college/university
Friend
Other

2. Family/Household Information

Student Aid Index (SAI)*

Found on the first page of the FAFSA Submission Summary.

Character Limit: 20

Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)*

If you do not have access to this figure in your FAFSA Submission Summary, you can find it on line 11 of your 1040 tax form. If your family uses another version of the 1040 form, you can figure out how to find your AGI here: https://turbotax.intuit.com/tax-tips/irs-tax-return/how-to-find-your-adjusted-gross-income-agi-to-e-file-your-tax-return/L2BNspAbm

Character Limit: 20

Who do you live with?*

Name, Relation to you, Age, Occupation (job, school, other). *For example:* Jane Smith, mother, 52, Accountant

Character Limit: 1000

Does your family own or rent your home?*

Choices

Own
Rent

If your family owns, what is the value of your home?

Character Limit: 20

Parent/Guardian Contribution

If you live in a **single parent/guardian household**, will your other parent/guardian be contributing toward the cost of your college education?
Please briefly explain.

Character Limit: 1000

Are you among the first generation in your immediate family to attend college?*

A first-generation college student is defined as a student whose parent(s) have not completed a bachelor's degree (this does not include your siblings). Are you among the first-generation in your immediate family to complete a bachelor's degree?

Choices

Yes
No

Siblings Currently in College?*

Do you have any siblings currently in college?

Choices

Yes
No
N/A

College(s) Currently Attended by your Sibling(s)

If yes, please list the college(s) that your sibling(s) currently attend.

Character Limit: 1000

Do you have any siblings that have completed college?*

Choices

Yes
No
N/A

College(s) and Degree(s) of your Sibling(s)

If yes, please list the school(s) from which your siblings have graduated and the degree(s) that they obtained.

Character Limit: 1000

Are any of your siblings a current Red Pine Scholar or alum?

Choices

Yes
No
N/A

What is your first parent/guardian's highest level of education?*

Choices

Middle School
High School
Some college
College (two-year)
College (four-year)
Graduate School
do not know

What is your second parent/guardian's highest level of education?*

Choices

Middle School
High School
Some college
College (two-year)
College (four-year)
Graduate School
do not know

3. High School Information

High School - Name*

Character Limit: 100

High School - Location*
City, State

Character Limit: 50

School Profile - from student
If possible, please upload a copy of your School Profile. Your school counselor will likely have access to this. This document provides us detail on how many honors and AP classes your high school offers as well as the portion of your school's graduates that go on to four-year colleges.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

High School - Graduation Date*
Month/Year (Example: xx/xxxx)

Character Limit: 7

High School GPA - Unweighted*
Please enter GPA as "X.XX". Example: 3.86
If your school only provides a weighted GPA, please write "NA."

Character Limit: 5

High School GPA - Weighted
Please enter GPA as "X.XX". Example: 3.86
If your school only provides an unweighted GPA, please write "NA."

Character Limit: 5

4. College Choice(s)
Please list, in order of preference, the colleges you hope to attend in the fall of 2026. Note that we understand your preferences may change.

First Choice College – Name*
Character Limit: 250

First Choice College – Location*
City, State

Character Limit: 100

First Choice College - Application Status*
Have you been accepted to your First Choice College?

Choices
Yes
I am still waiting for a decision.

Second Choice College – Name
Character Limit: 100

Second College Choice - Location
City, State

Character Limit: 100

Second Choice College - Application Status
Have you been accepted to your Second Choice College?

Choices
Yes
I am still waiting for a decision.

Third Choice College – Name
Character Limit: 250

Third Choice College – Location
City, State

Character Limit: 100

Third Choice College - Application Status
Have you been accepted to your Third Choice College?

Choices
Yes
I am still waiting for a decision.

Fourth Choice College – Name
Character Limit: 250

Fourth Choice College – Location
City, State

Character Limit: 100

Fourth Choice College - Application Status
Have you been accepted to your Fourth Choice College?

Choices
Yes
I am still waiting for a decision.

5. Other Scholarships

Have you received any scholarships for college so far?

If so, please list the scholarship name, amount, and whether it's renewable each year of college. Please only list outside scholarships you have received and not financial aid packages you have received from schools.

Character Limit: 1500

6. Extracurricular and Community Activities

Please fill out the following information about your extracurricular, community/volunteer, and work experiences in high school.

A **sample** entry could look like this:
Work: Sunshine Camp; summer camp counselor; June 25, 2021 to August 31, 2021; 30 hours per week for 8 weeks; $2,000.
Activities, Awards & Honors: Memorial High School Marching Band; trumpet player; grades 10, 11, 12; 4 hours per week for 3 months.
Community/Volunteer: Brookside Elementary School; first grade reading tutor; grades 11 & 12; 6 hours per week after school for 4 months.

If you don't have anything to list in a particular section please write N/A.

Do you currently work?*

Choices

Yes
No

If yes, who is your employer?

Character Limit: 100

If yes, how many hours per week?

Character Limit: 10

Work Experience*

Describe your work experience during the past four years (e.g., food server, babysitting, lawn mowing, office work). Indicate dates of employment for each job and approximate number of hours worked each week.

Character Limit: 5000

Activities, Awards & Honors*

List all activities in which you have participated during high school (e.g., student government, clubs, associations, sports, etc.). Please list the most recent first. Note all special awards, honors and offices held.

Character Limit: 5000

Community Service/Volunteer Activities*

List all community activities in which you have participated without pay in the past four years including name of organization, dates of participation and specific activities. Please only list recurring activities (not one-off activities).

Character Limit: 5000

Resume (not required)

In addition to filling out your work experience in the Extracurricular and Community Activities information above, you are welcome to include a copy of your resume, if you feel it provides a better representation of your work experience.

Please note: If you submit your resume, you are still required to fill out the Extracurricular and Community Activities section.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

7. Essays

What is your anticipated college major?*

You may list up to five possible majors.

Character Limit: 150

What is your anticipated post-college career path?*

If not sure, please write "not sure," or list multiple possible career paths.

Character Limit: 250

All essays and short answer questions should reflect **your own** writing and work. You will be asked to certify this through your electronic signature in section 11.

Long Essay*

The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, how did you address it (or, how are you currently addressing it) and what did you learn from the experience? (4500 characters or less)

Character Limit: 4500

Short Answer #1*
Why is attending college meaningful to you; what are your academic & career goals for your college experience? If there are specific reasons that your college major is meaningful to you, please also comment on that here. (3000 characters or less)

Character Limit: 3000

Short Answer #2*
In 1000 characters or less, please explain what family and financial circumstances make it difficult for you to pay for and/or attend college.

Character Limit: 1000

Is there anything else you'd like the review committee to know about you?
An optional section: If there is anything about you that hasn't been covered in this application and that you feel would make you a strong candidate for this scholarship (academic, extracurricular, life circumstance, accomplishments, etc.), please share this here.

Character Limit: 5000

10. Required Attachments
Please attach the following required documents.

High School Transcript*
Please attach your current complete ***most recent*** **high school transcript that includes your 12th grade GPA.** Be sure to include your high school's grading scale.

If your school does not provide students with transcripts, please upload a word document explaining that your school will be emailing it directly to Red Pine at redpine@tpi.org.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

IRS Form 1040*
Please attach a copy of *pages 1 and 2* of your parent(s)/guardian(s)' most recent **IRS Form 1040 in pdf or jpeg form.**

Did you or your parent/guardian file taxes in 2024?
If yes, attach a copy of pages 1 & 2 of your 2024 Tax Return (1040A Form).
If no, attach a copy of your 2024 W-2 Form or most recent paystubs. You may remove any sensitive personal information from these documents before uploading (such as social security # or birthday)

If you receive government assistance and did not file taxes in 2024, you can attach a copy of your verification letter for any of the following:
• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Unemployment Insurance
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants, children)
- Documentation of cash aid or food stamps (SNAP)

File Size Limit: 4 MB

FAFSA Submission Summary

Please attach a copy of your **FAFSA Submission Summary (SAR) in .pdf format**. (We understand that due to FAFSA delays, this may not be available to you at this time. You may submit your application without the FAFSA Submission Summary and email it to redpine@tpi.org at a later date)

NOTE: If your financial or citizenship status prevents you from submitting the FAFSA SAR report, you can still fill out the online form and save it as a pdf without submitting it. You can upload this pdf version here.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

11. Certification

The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI) has sole responsibility for selecting recipients based on criteria as set forth in the program's guidelines. Once submitted, this application becomes property of TPI and the donor.

Once your application is submitted, you may view your application at any time by returning to your online account, but you cannot make any changes to it.

Important: Be sure to review your application before clicking "submit" to make sure all attachments have uploaded correctly and your answers are clear. To do this, click on the "Application Packet" button in the top right-hand corner of the page. ***Applications that have unreadable attachments or don't load correctly will not be considered. It is very important that you make sure that everything has been properly submitted.***

I acknowledge all decisions are made by TPI. I certify that I meet the eligibility requirements of the program as described in the guidelines and the information provided is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also certify that the views and experiences expressed in this application are my own. I certify that I wrote all essays and responses included in this application. If requested, I will provide proof of information. Falsification of information may result in termination of any award granted. I give my consent for representatives from TPI to discuss my eligibility and need for scholarship assistance with financial aid counselors at my colleges of choice as well as with the donor. I also agree that TPI may provide a copy of my full application to the donor.

Applicant's Electronic Signature*
Please type your full name.

Character Limit: 50

Today's Date - Certification*
Character Limit: 10

Parent's or Guardian's Electronic Signature
If the applicant is under age 18, please enter your full name.

Character Limit: 50

Today's Date
Character Limit: 10

Once your application is submitted, you may view your application at any time by returning to your online account. However, you will not be able to make any changes.

8. Teacher/Counselor Recommendation

Reference Email Address - teacher/counselor*
Please **enter the email address of your reference below** and click "Compose Email" to send them a personal email asking them to be a reference. *Do not put your own email address here or enter more than one email address.* If you enter more than one email address, the links will become invalid.

Your recommender will receive an automated second email from this system that will include a link for them to click on and answer questions. Below is generic text you may copy and paste into your email.

PLEASE NOTE: You are responsible for ensuring that your recommender receives this link, and to provide your recommender with enough time (at least 2 weeks before scholarship deadline) to complete this recommendation.

SAMPLE LANGUAGE
Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for me for the Red Pine Scholarship Program. You'll receive another email from "administrator@grantinterface.com" that will include a link. This link will direct you to the recommendation form and will provide instructions on how to upload your recommendation to my application. The application due date is ***February 12, 2026 by 5:00 PM.***

Character Limit: 254

Attach Letter and Fill out Form*

Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for an applicant to the Red Pine Scholarship Program.

The recommendation is twofold:

1. Please answer the required questions below.
2. Please write a letter of recommendation and upload it using the link below. As part of your letter, please answer the following questions:

- Please describe the student's ability and motivation to succeed in college and beyond.
- What are your impressions of the applicant as a person? How is he or she viewed by peers and/or teachers? How does the applicant interact with others? Please describe any special personal strengths or problems of which we should be aware. We are especially interested in your thoughts regarding citizenship, leadership, and ability to become a successful, caring adult who will make a meaningful contribution to society.

Please note the applicant will not be able to read the recommendation.
****Deadline for feedback is 02/12/2026***
File Size Limit: 1 MB

School Profile

This document provides us detail on how many honors and AP classes your high school offers as well as the portion of your school's graduates that go on to four-year colleges.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Name of Recommender (you):*

Character Limit: 100

Recommender's Position:*

Character Limit: 100

Class Rank

Please list the recommended student's class rank as "rank number" out of "total class size." Format example: **10/230**

Character Limit: 8

9. General Recommendation

Reference Email Address*

Your general recommendation should come from a mentor or other adult who has had a significant influence on your life. Please **enter the email address of your reference below**, and click "Compose Email" to send them a personal email asking them to be a reference. Note that your general recommendation cannot come from a family member. *Do not put your own email*

address here or enter more than one email address. If you enter more than one email address, the links will become invalid.

Your recommender will receive an automated second email from this system that will include a link for them to click on and answer questions. Below are generic instructions for you to copy and paste into your email if you'd like to use them.

PLEASE NOTE: You are responsible for ensuring that your recommender receives this link in enough time (at least 2 weeks before scholarship deadline) to complete this recommendation.

SAMPLE LANGUAGE
Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for me for the Red Pine Scholars Program. You'll receive another email from administrator@grantinterface.com which will include a link. This link will provide instructions on how to upload your recommendation to my application. The application due date is ***February 12, 2026 by 5:00 PM.***

Character Limit: 254

Attach Recommendation Letter*

Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for an applicant to the Red Pine Scholarship Program. Please include your name and position & student relation below, write a letter of recommendation, and upload it using the link below. As part of your letter, please answer the following questions:

- Please describe the student's ability and motivation to succeed in college and beyond
- What are your impressions of the applicant as a person? How is he or she viewed by peers and/or other adults? How does the applicant interact with others? Please describe any special personal strengths or problems which we should be aware. We are especially interested in your thoughts regarding citizenship, leadership, and ability to become a successful, caring adult who will make a meaningful contribution to society.

Please note the applicant will not be able to read the recommendation.
****Deadline for feedback is 02/12/2026***

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Full Recommender Name*

Character Limit: 100

Recommender Occupation:*

Character Limit: 150

How long have you known the applicant? - general rec*

Character Limit: 150

In what capacity do you know the applicant? - general rec*

Character Limit: 250