
2025 Kenneth M. Smith Scholarship Guidelines



Hey JAG Seniors! Congratulations on all you have accomplished as you prepare to graduate!

Do you plan to further your education in the fall? Would you like to have \$2,000 for college expenses? If the answer is "yes," apply now for the Kenneth M. Smith Scholarship!

The Kenneth M. Smith Scholarship Fund and the Smith Scholars Program were established by the JAG Board to recognize the extraordinary leadership and service of the President and Chief Executive Officer of JAG, Inc., Kenneth M. Smith. Since 2009, the Kenneth M. Smith Scholarship Fund has awarded **380** scholarships for a total of **\$680,000** for participants enrolled in Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Contributions to the KMS Scholarship Fund have come from JAG Board members and partnering corporations who invest in the educational development of students in JAG.

Scholarships are awarded to JAG high school seniors, or students in out-of-school programs who will receive their diploma equivalency, in pursuit of a postsecondary degree or certificate, including: a public

or private two-year community college, technical college, public or private four-year college/university, or an apprenticeship or trade school. Apply today!

Scholarship Guidelines

1. Scholarships are awarded to JAG high school seniors, or students in out-of-school programs who will receive their diploma equivalency, in pursuit of a postsecondary degree or certificate, including: a public or private two-year community college, technical college, public or private four-year college/university, or an apprenticeship or trade school.
2. Scholarship application materials are submitted electronically through the Headrush platform. Required materials include application, 2 reference letters, resume, essay, academic transcript, proof of entry into post-secondary, and other documentation that will assure full points are awarded for each criterion. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3. Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted in PDF format and must be typed, grammatically correct, and properly punctuated. Applications and supporting documents will only be considered when submitted in PDF format.
4. **Application and all supporting documents must be uploaded to Headrush between February 1 and February 28, 2025.** Applications and supporting documents must be submitted on Headrush by the participant themselves. JAG Specialists are not allowed to submit any application materials on behalf of participants. If student application materials are submitted by a Specialist, the application will not be considered. Specialists can create Headrush accounts for their participants, or participants can create their own accounts. Join the [2025 Kenneth M. Smith Scholarship](#) module and follow instructions on the task board. If students have issues with their Headrush account, contact Natalie Toney at natalie.tonay@jag.org.
5. Applications must be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 p.m. EST, February 28, 2025, for consideration. Applications received after February 28, 2025, will **NOT** be considered.
6. Applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by members of the Smith Scholars Committee.
7. The Smith Scholars Committee will make the final decision on scholarship awards to be announced at the National Career Development Conference in Indianapolis on April 26th, 2025.
8. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, housing, textbooks, or school supplies.
9. Award recipients are required to complete a survey after their first year of post-secondary courses. The survey will be sent to the email address listed on the application.
10. The number of awards may vary from year to year based upon the Ken Smith Scholarship Fund balance.

Application At-A-Glance

Scholarship Submissions include:

- Task 1: Application
- Task 2: 2 Reference Letters
- Task 3: Résumé
- Task 4: Essay
- Task 5: High School Transcript
- Task 6: Proof of entry into post-secondary *

**If you have received proof of acceptance into post-secondary, please upload it with your application. If you have not yet received your acceptance letter, please note that on the application. If you are selected, proof of acceptance must be submitted prior to funds being distributed.*

Headrush

Visit the [2025 Kenneth M. Smith Scholarship](#) Headrush module to apply and submit documentation between February 1-28, 2025.

Activate your access as a Specialist or Manager

If you don't already have a Headrush account as a Specialist or Manager (or if your login isn't working), submit your [request here](#). Fill in the form. You will receive an email with your account information and login credentials within 48 hours. Learners will be added by their respective Specialist. As a Specialist, please plan ahead. Students will not be given dispensation if Specialists fail to get accounts created on time.

Activate your learners

Once you are logged into Headrush, you can import your learners from a list or spreadsheet organized in groups. You can also use a QR Code to invite learners to a group if they already have a Headrush account. Get your account set up first, then prepare a list of learners you want to invite. Then, invite your learners. [Learn how in the Help Center](#).

If your learner Headrush login is not working, students can reset their password if they can retrieve the email address on their account. Otherwise, submit the name(s) and email(s) of the student in the chat embedded within Headrush to request help. Please note, chats may take 48 hours to be responded to, so plan accordingly.

Any other Headrush questions?

Visit our [Getting Started](#) page for more.