



Scholarship Application

Completed Application must be received within 10 days of your regional fair or 3/17/26 whichever is earlier.

A completed application must be submitted with all required components not later than the deadline below

3/17/2026

Student portions of the completed applications may be scanned and emailed as a single pdf document to gcook@sefi.org

Completed Letters of Recommendation may also be scanned and emailed by the recommender to gcook@sefi.org. If using US Postal service, please be aware that the applications and **all required elements must be received** by the above date. Failure to submit the application on time will remove the student from consideration for any of these scholarships.

Postal Address if mailing

Science Education Foundation of Indiana, Inc
Scholarship Selection Committee
864 E. Cambridge Dr. Terre Haute, IN 47802

All applications submitted by the deadline will receive confirmation of the submission via email at the registered email address of both the student and the teacher.

Please note: Submission of a completed application does not guarantee an interview. The scholarship review committee determines which applicants will be extended an interview.

SEFI Scholarship Selection Criteria

The SEFI Scholarship Committee will select three student scholarship winners. The selection process is described later in this document. One scholarship winner in each of the following categories will be selected: If no students submit applications in one category, the category with the most applicants will receive a second scholarship.

- I. Students with projects having traditional support available in high school settings in the areas of content expertise and equipment.
- II. Students with projects with support from higher education or business for equipment or expertise or multiyear projects.
- III. Students with projects developed using primarily student expertise and resources.

To be considered for the SEFI Scholarships, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a legal resident of Indiana, a high school senior (Grade 12) and eligible to graduate at the close of the current semester.
2. Be awarded a position at the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair by a participating Indiana Regional Fair.
3. **Attend an accredited Indiana college or university** and provide proof of admission and copy of course schedule to the SEFI Executive Director by July 1 of the current year.
4. Provide an application that is complete. (See below for the required elements.) Participate in the interview process during the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair.

The Application Packet must be completed and submitted by the deadline as posted on the top of the application for the applicant to be considered in the selection process. Additionally, the Application must contain all of the Elements listed below.

Required Elements: Submission of a complete packet is required for consideration, please provide the following.

- a. A photo added to the document in the space provided (page 1)
- b. Applicant Information and Signed Form (Page 1 of 3)
- c. College Choices and other scholarships (page 2 of 2)
- d. Personal Statement (See Page 3 of 3)
- e. Project Abstract (the abstract submitted with your project)
- f. Resume (see page 2 of application for description)
- g. Current Transcript showing Grade 12 Courses being taken, Cumulative GPA and Class Rank.
- h. Two recommendations (one must be from your science teacher)

The three scholarships to be awarded at the HSEF are named in honor of two of SEFI's Founding members and a former Executive Director and his wife.

- **The Joe B. Weaver Scholarship (\$1,000 award)**
- **The Leslie A. Willig Scholarship (\$1,000 award)**
- **The John and Janet Davis Scholarship (\$1,000 award)**

Scholarship Terms of Agreement

1. Scholarships funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, and/or on campus room and board. Scholarship checks will be sent directly to the Indiana College or University where the recipient enrolls. Scholarship funds will be held in escrow on the student's behalf until requested.
2. Scholarships are awarded with the understanding that the scholarship will not reduce any other scholarships or awards that are given to the student. If the student's first year tuition, fees, books and on campus room and board are fully funded through other scholarships, the student may apply the SEFI scholarship to the second year of enrollment.
3. If for any reason, the student fails to maintain continuous enrollment in an Indiana College or University, the remaining funds in the student's escrow will revert to the Science Education Foundation of Indiana.
4. A report of the balance on account will be sent to the student for each disbursement.

Scholarship Judging Rounds

1. **Round One – Meeting Selection Criteria and Distinguishing Characteristics of Applications**
 - a. Judges independently review all submissions and collectively select applications to move forward for Round Two.
 - b. Scores in this round are based upon completed applications, number of Indiana school choices, GPA, project abstracts, and resume.
 - c. Maximum awarded points for this round is 25/100.
2. **Round Two – Demonstration of the Scientific Method and Science Application**
 - a. The selection committee visits each project's e-portfolio from students selected in Round One and evaluates projects based upon: purpose/ objective, background, experimental procedure, results, and conclusions.
 - b. The pool of selected applications will then be narrowed to the top projects in each tier. Maximum points awarded for this round is 25/100.
 - c. Applicants selected in this round will become candidates to receive one of the scholarships.
3. **Round Three – Theme: Personal Interview**
 - a. Candidates selected from Round Two will be invited for an interview with the selection committee. *Every effort will be made to conduct interviews via Zoom or similar web-based system.*
 - b. The candidates will be assessed in the following categories: overall science project, activities and interests, personal statement, and overall impression of the student.
 - c. Maximum points awarded for this round is 50/100.
4. **Consensus** – After all candidates have been heard in the interviews, the committee will review final scores and determine the awardee for each category. Awardees will be identified publicly during the awards ceremony.

(Please note that persons in a team project are eligible to apply for a scholarship however, the scholarships are an individual award).

**SCIENCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF INDIANA, INC.
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Attach Photo Here

Personal Information

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
Address		City		State	Zip
DOB		Gender (optional)		Cell Number	
Email			County of Residence		
High School Name			Graduation Date		

Family Information

Name of father/stepfather/guardian: _____

Address _____

Name of mother/stepmother/guardian: _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian/Applicant Certification

I (we) hereby affirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my (our) knowledge. I (we) agree to give proof of the information I (we) have given on this form. I (we) give my (our) consent for the personal references and /or counselors to provide information for consideration in the selection process.

Additionally, if I receive a SEFI Scholarship, it is my intent to pursue four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at an Indiana college or university. If I do not attend college at an Indiana college or university, then I understand that this scholarship will be cancelled.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____ Date: _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____

Completing the following information allows you to be considered for the SEFI scholarships. It is important that you provide complete information.

College/University Choices

Please list your top three college/university choices:

	Institution Name	Admitted Y/N
First Choice	_____	_____
Second Choice	_____	_____
Third Choice	_____	_____

Please list here any and all scholarships that you have already been awarded. (Please include amount of each award. Attach separate sheet as necessary).

Award Description	Value
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Application Packet Required Elements: S u b m i s s i o n of a complete packet is required for consideration, please provide the following.

- a. Wallet size photo
- b. Applicant Information and Signed Form (Page 1 of 3) College Choices and other scholarships (page 2 of 2) Personal Statement (See Page 3 of 3)
- c. Project Abstract (the abstract submitted with your project) Resume (see below for description)
- d. Current Transcript showing Grade 12 Courses being taken, Cumulative GPA and Class
- e. Rank.

Resume

Provide a current resume that includes the following information. If a resume is not available, providing the information requested below in lists or another format is acceptable.

1. Academic Information:
 - a. Cumulative GPA
 - b. Class Rank
 - c. Courses being taken this year.
2. Honors/Recognitions (academic, athletic, community)
3. Activities (school, community, leadership)

Concise Statement of Personal Goals

Using only the space provided, write an essay about your plans as they relate to your educational and career objectives/goals.
How did you arrive at your decision?

SEFI SCHOLARSHIP – Science Teacher Recommendation Form

To the Applicant: Please complete the top section of this recommendation form, print out and provide one copy to the science teacher most closely associated with your work in research and/or on this project.

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Middle _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Under the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy act of 1974, students are entitled to review their records, including letters of recommendation. It is your option to waive your rights to preview these recommendations or to decline to do so. Please mark the appropriate space below and sign your name.

_____ I waive the rights to review.

_____ I do not waive my rights to review

Signature: _____

Date: _____

To the person providing this recommendation: *Please complete this section and return it to the student in a sealed envelope.*

I have known the applicant for _____ years in my capacity as _____

I am aware that the applicant:

_____ **A** Had high school teacher assistance in developing some elements of the focus, direction and background content for this Science Fair project. *(This does not assume inappropriate levels of assistance, but is designed to differentiate different levels of support)*

_____ **B** Had assistance from me or other science teachers and research support for equipment and/or expertise from a college, university or business.

_____ **C** Had minimal high school teacher support, mostly a student-initiated project.

Please rate the applicant on each characteristic in comparison to other students at the same level by circling the appropriate number.

		No Basis for Judgment	Weak	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Exceptional
A	Honesty and Integrity	0	1	2	3	4	5
B	Intellectual ability for College	0	1	2	3	4	5
C	Ability to Analyze	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	Oral English Expression Skills	0	1	2	3	4	5
E	Written English Expression Skills	0	1	2	3	4	5
F	Demonstrates leadership ability	0	1	2	3	4	5
G	Dependability	0	1	2	3	4	5
H	Respected and liked by peers and adults	0	1	2	3	4	5

You are invited to provide a short narrative focused on the qualities or potential of this candidate to be successful in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics related fields of study at the college level. To do so, add an additional page.

Respondents Signature _____ Date _____ Phone _____

Print Name _____ Title/Position _____

Institution _____ Address _____

SEFI SCHOLARSHIP – Other Recommendation Form

To the Applicant: Please complete the top section of this recommendation form, print out and provide one copy to the recommender.

Last Name	First Name	Middle	
Address	City	State	Zip

Under the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy act of 1974, students are entitled to review their records, including letters of recommendation. It is your option to waive your rights to preview these recommendations or to decline to do so. Please mark the appropriate space below and sign your name.

I waive the rights to review.
 I do not waive my rights to review

Signature: _____ Date: _____

To the person providing this recommendation: *Please complete this section and return it to the student in a sealed envelope.*

I have known the applicant for _____ years in my capacity as _____

In the space provided, how would you describe the applicant’s aptitude for college?

Please rate the applicant on each characteristic in comparison to other students at the same level by circling the appropriate number.

		No Basis for Judgment	Weak	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Exceptional
A	Honesty and Integrity	0	1	2	3	4	5
B	Intellectual ability for college	0	1	2	3	4	5
C	Ability to Analyze	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	Oral English Expression Skills	0	1	2	3	4	5
E	Written English Expression Skills	0	1	2	3	4	5
F	Demonstrates leadership ability	0	1	2	3	4	5
G	Dependability	0	1	2	3	4	5
H	Respected and liked by peers and adults	0	1	2	3	4	5

You are invited to provide a short narrative focused on the qualities or potential of this candidate to be successful in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics related fields of study at the college level. To do so, add an additional page.

Respondents Signature _____ Date _____ Phone _____

Print Name _____ Title/Position _____

Institution _____ Address _____