

Black Skeptics Los Angeles

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

***First in the Family Humanist Scholarship:
Forward Freethought Scholarship 2026***

Deadline: June 19, 2026

Six \$5000 scholarships will be awarded to **graduating high school students** of color (African American, Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American) who identify as agnostic, atheist, humanist, freethinker and/or secular. **Apply online @ <https://blackskepticsla.org/scholarship-application/>**

Scholarships will be awarded in mid-August 2026

Eligibility Requirements:

- I. Preference will be given to students who are the **first in their families** to go to college.
- II. Students who are (or have been) in foster care, homeless, undocumented, disabled and/or identify as LGBTQI+ are encouraged to apply.
- III. Applicants must have a record of service to and participation in school and/or community-based organizations.
- IV. Applicants must provide a letter of recommendation from an advisor/teacher *and* complete the two-paragraph essay below with specific detail and background on how their advocacy qualifies as “humanist”.
- V. Applicants must provide an admission letter to a 2 or 4 year college.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/email: _____

High School: _____

Race/ethnicity: _____

Are you the first in your family to go to college? Yes No

Mandatory Identification (check all that apply): secular humanist atheist agnostic
freethinker foster care homeless LGBTQI+ undocumented disabled

Please submit a typed two-paragraph essay (between 500-700 words) on the following:

Humanism is based on the belief that every human being should be treated equitably regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, class, and disability status. Secular humanism holds that human beings, not gods, are solely responsible for creating social change. **Why do you identify as non-religious/secular and what humanist issue(s) are you passionate about addressing in your community? How might secular humanism make a positive difference in creating social change? What specific issues or causes have you addressed in your community that could be characterized as humanist?**

IF YOUR ESSAY DOES NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE PROMPT, AND/OR RELIES HEAVILY ON AI, YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. IF YOU ARE NOT A GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DISQUALIFIED