

# SILAS “OPTIMUS-PRIME” WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP

## National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Trooper Motorcycle Club™ – Aberdeen, Maryland Chapter

**Deadline: 11:59 PM on June 30, 2025**

This year the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Trooper Motorcycle Club™ (NABSTMC™) – Aberdeen, Maryland (MD) Chapter is officially naming our yearly scholarship after our Chapter's 1<sup>st</sup> President and Charter Member, Mr. **Silas “Optimus-Prime” Williams**. We are proud to announce our **2025 Annual Scholarship Awards Program!**

In alignment with the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Trooper Motorcycle Club™ our philosophy is:

- To promote the history of African American Veterans
- To be a positive role model for youth in our community
- To support our veterans by visiting local veterans, their families, and supporting our fallen heroes
- To support charitable organizations in our community
- To uphold the traditions and standards of the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club™
- To promote motorcycle safety in our community

A 2025 high school senior or GED recipient in Harford County Maryland and Cecil County Maryland could be awarded up to \$1,000.00. **Applicants must have a GPA of 2.0 or better and be attending post-secondary or vocational/trade school in the Fall of 2025.**

This year, the NABSTMC™ – Aberdeen, MD Chapter will award **three (3) scholarships:**

- **Two (2) \$1,000.00**
- **One (1) \$500.00**

The scholarship application and information detailing all eligibility requirements for the scholarship is attached to this package. Our scholarship application can be downloaded from our website at <https://www.absmcmd.org> or a copy may be requested through email at [onyxbsmc@gmail.com](mailto:onyxbsmc@gmail.com).

Scholarship **applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on June 30, 2025** to the NABSTMC™ – Aberdeen, MD Chapter. **Email complete application packets to [onyxbsmc@gmail.com](mailto:onyxbsmc@gmail.com).** Incomplete scholarship application packages will not be considered and will not be returned. Please submit all questions by email.

Scholarship awardees will be notified by written correspondence on the results by **July 10, 2025.**

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## SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

✓	Criteria/Documents
	1. <b>Unofficial High School Transcript</b> obtained within 30 days of application deadline. Home School Transcript or GED Certificate emailed <a href="mailto:onyxbsmc@gmail.com">onyxbsmc@gmail.com</a> .
	2. Write a 500-word essay (typewritten or handwritten in your own words) on one of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Describe a significant challenge you have faced in your life and how you overcame it. How did this experience shape your character and your aspirations for the future?</li> <li>B. How have you contributed to your community or school through service or leadership? What did you learn from these experiences, and how will you apply these lessons to your college years and beyond?</li> <li>C. How do you define diversity and why is it important to you? In what ways do you promote inclusivity and respect for others' differences, and how will you continue to do so in your college experience?</li> </ul>
	3. <b>Signed and dated Letter of Recommendation</b> on <b>OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD</b> from a teacher, guidance counselor or school administrator and/or employer (for GED)
	4. <b>Signed and dated Letter of Recommendation</b> on <b>OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD</b> from a Community Service Organization
	5. <b>Official Letter of Acceptance</b> to an institution of higher learning
	6. <b>Signed Release Form</b> (Terms & Conditions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Student signature</li> <li>b. Parent's signature on application, if student is under 18 years old</li> </ul>
	7. <b>Letter of Introduction</b> (typewritten or handwritten in your own words) addressing all topics below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell us about who you are</li> <li>• Your accomplishments to date (to include honors and awards)</li> <li>• Family background</li> <li>• Degree/Certificate to which you are seeking</li> <li>• Brief summary on how you plan to use the scholarship if selected</li> <li>• Incorporate how this scholarship will benefit you in giving back to your community</li> </ul>
	8. Recent Professional Headshot <b>Photo</b> (professional photo) <b>email in JPEG format or attach</b>
	9. <b>Education Institution information.</b> Provide on separate sheet of paper the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Applicant's name</li> <li>b. Complete name and address of the school and/or financial aid office where the applicant will be attending school</li> <li>c. Student ID number</li> </ul>
	10. <b>Submit complete application (pages 4 - 7).</b> Incomplete packages will be eliminated.
	11. <b>Email application</b> to NABSTMC™ - Aberdeen, MD Chapter <b>by 11:59 PM on June 30, 2025</b> to <a href="mailto:onyxbsmc@gmail.com">onyxbsmc@gmail.com</a> .

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## National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Trooper Motorcycle Club™ – Aberdeen, Maryland Chapter

2025 Scholarship Application Form – **Deadline 11:59 PM on June 30, 2025**

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Completed applications and required documents must be attached as MS Word documents or scanned in a PDF format except for the photo, JPEG is excepted. **JPEG and GIF image formats will be rejected for all other documents.**

The following are required to complete your application:

1. Applicant must be an eligible Graduating High School Senior/GED recipient during the 2024 Fall / 2025 Summer school year who will be attending post-secondary or vocational/trade school in 2025.
2. Applicant must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 (if applicable)
3. Attach or scan the completed application only (page 4 - page 7); do not include the general information pages and instructions pages
4. Unofficial High School Transcript, Home School Transcript or GED Certificate
5. A 500-word essay on one of the topics described below:
  - a. Describe a significant challenge you have faced in your life and how you overcame it. How did this experience shape your character and your aspirations for the future?
  - b. How have you contributed to your community or school through service or leadership? What did you learn from these experiences, and how will you apply these lessons to your college years and beyond?
  - c. How do you define diversity and why is it important to you? In what ways do you promote inclusivity and respect for others' differences, and how will you continue to do so in your college experience?
6. Letter of recommendation on official letterhead from a teacher/guidance counselor/school administrator, and/or employer for GED applicant
7. Letter of recommendation on letterhead from a community service organization
8. A letter of acceptance to an institution of higher learning or vocational/trade school
9. Signed Release Form (enclosed)
10. Parent's signature if an applicant is under 18 years old
11. Prepare a letter of introduction, who you are, your accomplishments to date, your family background, and the degree/certificate to which you are seeking. Provide a summary of how you plan to use the scholarship if selected. Also, incorporate, how this scholarship would benefit you in giving back to your community.
12. Recent professional head-shot photo (In Good Taste)
13. Provide applicant's name, the complete name and address of the school and/or financial aid office where the applicant will be attending school, and the student ID number.

**National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Trooper Motorcycle Club™  
– Aberdeen, Maryland Chapter**

**2025 Scholarship Application Form – Deadline 11:59 PM on June 30, 2025**

**APPLICANTS INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name & Middle Initial Last Name

Gender: Male Female

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS**

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION**

1. How did you complete high school?

High School Diploma (Traditional)

GED or High School Equivalency Certificate

Homeschooled

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of High School, Program, or Governing Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

3. School Location (City & State): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Completion Date or Expected Completion Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Grade Point Average (GPA) (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION**

1. Type of Education Institution:

4-Year College/University

2-Year Community College

Trade/Vocational/Technical School

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of School or Program: \_\_\_\_\_

3. School Location (City & State): \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Program, Degree, or Certification Sought (e.g. Bachelor's in Mathematics, Associate's in Communication, HVAC Certification, Cosmetology License, Welding Technology, etc.):
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. Expected Completion Date (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Enrollment Status:

Full-Time

Part-time

Not yet enrolled-accepted and planning to attend

Currently applying

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Use this space to provide the applicant's volunteer service, extracurricular activities, and work experience during the applicant's academic career. Do not attach a resume in lieu of completing this form. It will not be reviewed.

1. Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Average Hours per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you still participating:    Yes    No

2. Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Average Hours per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you still participating:    Yes    No

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**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

1. Sport/Club/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Average Hours per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sport/Club/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Average Hours per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Average Hours per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you still working:      Yes      No

**PHOTO**



I understand that funds will be disbursed in person. If not in person, funds will be disbursed to my school during the first semester once proof of attendance is provided from my school's registrar's office.

Applicant's Initial \_\_\_\_\_

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**RELEASE FORM: TERMS & CONDITIONS**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify to the best of my knowledge, that the information on this application is complete and accurate. Falsification of any information will cause my disqualification from the scholarship competition.

(1) It is my responsibility to make sure the application process is complete, and the entire application packet is sent or scanned to the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers & Troopers Motorcycle Club™ – Aberdeen, Maryland Chapter by the required deadline. If not, the application will be disqualified from the scholarship competition and will not be considered for an award.

(2) This application, upon receipt, becomes the property of the program sponsor.

I agree that, if selected as an award winner for the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers & Troopers Motorcycle Club™ - Aberdeen, Maryland Scholarship Program, the program sponsor or its agents may use my name and likeness and any other information or materials provided in connection with this program for purposes of news, publicity, and advertising in all media, including but not limited to print and electronic media, press releases, internet, websites, and video media.

To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational and Privacy Act of 1974, I hereby grant permission for school officials to release secondary school records and other requested information, if necessary.

If you are under 18, your parent or guardian must also agree to these Terms and Conditions.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_