

SILAS “OPTIMUS-PRIME” WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP

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

****Updated Deadlines****

**National Scholarship - 11:59 PM on February 6, 2026
Local Scholarship - 11:59 PM on April 30, 2026**

Announcing the 2026 National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Trooper Motorcycle Club™ (NABSTMC™) – Aberdeen, Maryland Chapter’s yearly scholarship, named after our Chapter’s 1st President and Charter Member, Mr. **Silas “Optimus-Prime” Williams**.

A 2026 high school senior or **General Educational Development (GED)** recipient in Harford County Maryland and Cecil County Maryland could be awarded up to \$1,500.00. **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 has two (2) different scholarships: 1) College/University and 2) Vocational/Trade School. The chapter will award **four (4) scholarships**:

- **One (1) \$1,500.00**
- **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. Scholarship **applications must be submitted by the deadlines listed above** to the NABSTMC™ – Aberdeen, MD Chapter.

Email complete application packets to 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 **June 30, 2026**.

Wishing all applicants an awesome Senior Year!



National Association of Buffalo Soldiers & Troopers Motorcycle Club™ (NABSTMC)™

<http://www.nabstmc.com/scholarship>

The **philosophy** of the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club™ is:

- Honor the rich history of the 9th and 10th Cavalry of Buffalo Soldiers who served in the U.S. Army from 1866-1944
- Ride our motorcycles in which is referred to as our '*iron horse*'
- Proudly serve in our communities to display goodwill
- Support veterans and their families
- Partner with charitable organizations
- Promote motorcycle safety
- Uphold NABSTMC™ traditions and values

Organization Overview:

- NABSTMC™ is organized into 5 Frontiers: Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, Central, and Western
- The organization spans 35 states, including Hawaii, plus an international Chapter in Germany
- Over 109 Chapters

Scholarship Application Guidelines

Each local chapter may submit up to two (2) scholarship application packets to its designated Frontier Scholarship Representative by the stated deadline.

- Submitted applications may qualify to compete at both the Frontier and National levels.
- The Frontier winner will advance to an interview process conducted by the National Scholarship Committee.

Selected Frontier winners will be interviewed and vetted by the National Scholarship Committee. Final vetting will determine the recipient of the National Scholarship Award. **The National Winner is required to attend the NABSTMC Convention in Tampa, Florida, on July 9–11, 2026, for the formal presentation of the award.** Event logistics will be coordinated by the National Secretary and the Scholarship Team.

Scholarship funds will be mailed directly to the attending institution upon verification of enrollment and attendance in Spring 2026. Local chapters may choose to award scholarship funds **either directly to the student or to the attending school**, based on chapter discretion. This distinction is separate from Frontier and National-level awards, which are **mailed directly to the student's school** following enrollment verification.

Application Instructions

All documents must be submitted as one (1) PDF file (JPEG and GIF formats will be rejected). Name the PDF file: Full Name.City.State. The essay must be submitted as Microsoft Word document. Name the file Full Name.City.State

Required Documents

Applicant is a graduating high school senior or GED recipient (Fall 2025 – Summer 2026), planning to attend post-secondary/vocational/trade school with a minimum 2.0 GPA

Completed application (exclude general info/instructions)

Unofficial high school transcript, homeschool transcript, or GED certificate

Essay (750–1500 words; double spaced; 12-pt font; 1-inch margins) authentic work with <10% plagiarism: additional requirements below.

Letter of recommendation from:

Teacher, guidance counselor, school administrator, or employer (for GED applicants)

Community service organization

Letter of acceptance to an institution of higher learning

Signed release form (and parent's signature if under 18)

Letter of introduction including:

Who you are

Accomplishments to date

Family background

Degree/certificate being pursued

How scholarship funds will help

How you will give back to your community

Recent professional headshot (no selfies)

Student's full name, student ID number, and name/address of school or financial aid office

Photo Submission Guidelines

Please insert a photo that meets the following requirements:

- Attire: Business casual
- Size: Standard thumbnail dimensions — 1280 x 720 pixels
- Format: Photo must be embedded directly into the PDF document

This photo will be used for official purposes. Ensure the image is clear, well-lit, and appropriately framed in a neutral background.

Essay Instructions:

Important: Do not write about NABSTMCTM

Please choose one of the approved topics listed below and write an original essay that explores the history and impact of the Original Buffalo Soldiers. Your essay must meet the following criteria:

- Originality: The essay must be your own work and demonstrate less than 10% similarity when checked for plagiarism.
- Length: Minimum of 750 words and no more than 1500 words.
- Formatting: Use double spacing, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins. Submit your work in either APA or MLA format, including proper citations. Submit as a Word document.
- Research Requirement: Your essay should reflect thoughtful research and understanding of the Buffalo Soldiers' contributions, challenges, and legacy.

A. How the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers inspires my journey today.

B. Character & Leadership Topics; Embodying the Buffalo Spirit: Leadership through adversity. Share a personal story or experience that shows how you demonstrated resilience, discipline, or leadership like the Buffalo Soldier.

C. How do you plan to carry the Buffalo Soldiers' legacy forward? Discuss your career goals and how they align with values like service, education, justice, or advocacy.

D. Lifting as We Climb: The role of the Buffalo Soldier in inspiring the Next Generation -Reflect on how their legacy influences youth today and how you plan to inspire others.

Submit Application:

Submit completed applications and the required documents in **ONE (1) PDF file** and one Microsoft Word document via email to the local NABSTMCTM chapter nearest to your home before 11:59 PM local time on the stated deadline of February 6, 2026. **JPEG and GIF image formats** will be rejected. **The Subject line of the email is your Full Name, City and State.** Applications must be vetted by the local Chapter. The Chapter Scholarship Representative will forward awarded applications to the Frontier Scholarship Representative.



National Association of Buffalo Soldiers & Troopers Motorcycle Club™ (NABSTMC)™ Scholarship Program

2026 Application

Application Deadline February 6, 2026

National Association of Buffalo Soldiers & Troopers™ MC Local Chapter: _____

Scholarship Representative Contact Information: _____

First Name:		Last Name:	
Address:			
City:		State:	
Zip Code:		Email:	
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:	
Date of Birth:		Parent Phone:	

Academic Information:

High School Name:		City / State	
Graduation Date:			

School Information Higher education (If you have not finalized your school choice, provide your first-choice school.):

School Name:		City / State:	
School Type (Select one): Four-Year Two-Year			
Program of Study/Qualification Sought/Area of Study:			

Anticipated Graduation Date:	
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Applicant Service, Extracurricular Activities, and Work Experience:

Use this space to list your volunteer service, extracurricular activities, internship, or work experience. **Do not attach a resume in lieu of completing this form. It will not be reviewed.** Duplicate this page if you have additional experience to share.

Description			
Total Hours or Average Hours per week:		Are you still participating? (yes/no)	
Start Date:		End Date:	
Position Held:			
Description			
Total Hours or Average Hours per week:		Are you still participating? (yes/no)	
Start Date:		End Date:	
Position Held:			
Description			
Total Hours or Average Hours per week:		Are you still participating? (yes/no)	
Start Date:		End Date:	
Position Held:			

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 nearest local National Association of Buffalo Soldiers & Troopers Motorcycle Club™ Chapter (locate at www.nabstm.com) by the required deadline. If not, the application may be disqualified from the scholarship competition and may 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™ 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 Rights 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 or Guardian Signature: (if applicable) _____

****Your Local Chapter Scholarship Representative must acknowledge this application with a signature before sending to the National Scholarship Committee. This representative will be your first point of contact during the scholarship season.**

Chapter Scholarship Rep.

Signature

Date