

Diane Walker, Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator
Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation
333 South 132nd Street Omaha, Nebraska 68154
402.334.6551 dwalker@jewishomaha.org

Instructions to Jewish High School Students Applying for a \$10,000 Phil and Ruth Sokolof Honor Roll Merit Scholarship Academic Year 2026-2027

This application is for a **\$10,000 merit scholarship** for a graduating Jewish high school student from the Omaha metropolitan area for college or university education. **This scholarship is not based on financial need, but is in recognition of overall good character, scholastic performance, personal achievements, and community service. This is not a need-based award, but it is the donor's intent that the funding be used for tuition.** Applicant must have resided in the Omaha metropolitan area for at least the past two years.

Your application form must be received by the Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator by April 1, 2026. You are responsible for seeing that all documentation and references are received by that date.

1. If you are planning a gap year, do not apply. You are only eligible for this award the year you graduate.
2. Complete the application form. Please print legibly in black ink in all areas that do not require typed responses. Attach additional sheets, **with your name at the top**, where necessary.
3. **Sign the application** (page 3) and submit it to the Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator at the address above prior to **April 1, 2026**.
4. Arrange for your school to send your transcripts and SAT and/or ACT scores to the Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator at the address above prior to **April 1, 2026**. **(Some high schools do not automatically send scores with transcripts; be sure to request them.)**
5. Give a recommendation form to each person you have selected. Remember to complete the top of the confidential form with your signature for your voluntary waiver to access the recommendation. If you are downloading your application form from the internet, you will need to print three recommendation forms.

Please give a recommendation form to three people (not family members) in the Omaha community. At least one must be from your school guidance counselor and/or teacher. Other recommendations may be from an employer, clergy, youth group advisor or anyone who can attest to your personal character and/or academic abilities. These forms are confidential. Please sign the waiver on each form.

The people submitting recommendations must return their forms by **April 1, 2026** to Diane Walker, Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator, Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation, 333 S. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68154. In order to facilitate the timely return of your recommendations, it is advisable to attach to each recommendation form a legal-size, stamped envelope, addressed to the Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator.

You may call Diane Walker at 402.334.6551 or email her at dwalker@jewishomaha.org with any questions.

While the deadline is April 1, 2026, earlier submissions are encouraged.

The recipients of the Sokolof Scholarships will be notified by May 1, 2026.

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Application for a \$10,000 Phil and Ruth Sokolof Honor Roll Merit Scholarship Academic Year 2026-2027

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This scholarship is not based on financial need, but is in recognition of overall good character, scholastic performance, personal achievements, and community service. This is not a need-based award, but it is the donor's intent that the funding be used for tuition. Applicant must have resided in the Omaha metropolitan area for at least the past two years.

**This application is due by April 1, 2026 to the above address.
Late application, or application with late supporting
documentation, will not be accepted.**
Scholarships will be awarded by the Sokolof Scholarship Committee of
the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation.

General Information

Date of application _____ Age _____ Date of birth _____

Name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Email _____

Phone number _____ Cell _____

How long have you lived in the Omaha Metropolitan Area? _____

Mother's name _____

Address _____
If different from student

Father's name _____

Address _____
If different from student

Transcripts and Test Scores

You must request that an official copy of your high school transcript be sent to the Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator, Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation, 333 S. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68154 by **April 1, 2026**. The transcript must reflect your cumulative GPA from your freshman year through first semester of your senior year as well as your SAT and/or ACT scores. If you attended more than one high school, please request a transcript from each one.

Transcript requested _____
School Address

Guidance Counselor _____
Name Phone number

Additional high school(s) attended _____
School Address

Guidance Counselor _____
Name Phone number

Have you ever been expelled, suspended, dismissed, or had any disciplinary action taken against you?
Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please explain.

GPA _____ Class rank _____ out of _____ students

ACT score _____ SAT score _____

List all Advanced Placement and Honors classes completed.

High School/Community Activities

On an attached sheet **with your name at the top**, please type your responses to the following:

1. Describe your academic and school-related activities, including years of involvement.
2. Describe your involvement in extracurricular activities in the community, including volunteer experiences, and your years of involvement. For volunteer activities, please provide number of hours spent on each.
3. List prizes, honors and/or awards received.
4. If you have been employed during high school, including summer jobs, list the type of work and length of employment.

Essays

On an attached sheet **with your name at the top**, please type your answers to the following questions using no more than 150 words for each answer.

1. How would you describe yourself if someone asked you for a short description of who you are?
2. Describe which project, activity or high school experience has been most valuable to you and why.
3. Which colleges/universities are you considering? What criteria did you consider in selecting these schools?
4. Why do you feel you should be considered for this Sokolof scholarship?

I attest that, to the best of my knowledge, all information on this application is accurate and truthful.

Signature _____ Date _____

Confidential Recommendation Form
\$10,000 Phil and Ruth Sokolof Honor Roll Merit Scholarship
Academic Year 2026-2027

To the student: I voluntarily waive access to this recommendation.

Student's Name (Print) _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

To the person submitting the recommendation:

This student is applying for a **\$10,000 merit scholarship** for his/her college or university education from the *Phil and Ruth Sokolof Honor Roll Fund*, administered by the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation. These scholarships will be presented to each of two graduating Jewish high school students from the Omaha metropolitan area and are not based on financial need. Criteria are: overall good character, scholastic performance, personal achievement and community service. We appreciate your honesty; please inform us if you know of any disciplinary action taken against this student. Your evaluation will be kept in confidence. Thank you for your time and effort on this student's behalf.

**For the student to be considered for this scholarship, this form must
be returned to the address below no later than April 1, 2026.**

Please attach a signed sheet with the student's name and your name at the top telling us why you feel this student would be a deserving candidate for the Sokolof scholarship. Describe topics you are familiar with that will be helpful to the selection committee, such as academic performance, motivation, leadership skills, talent or aptitude, creativity and dependability.

How long have you known this student and in what context? _____

Please print your name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

You may call Diane Walker, Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator, at 402.334.6551 or email her at dwalker@jewishomaha.org with any questions.

Please return this form no later than April 1, 2026 to:

Diane Walker, Sokolof Scholarship Coordinator
Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation
333 S. 132nd Street Omaha, NE 68154