



Monterey County Fair Heritage Foundation

2026 Scholarship Details & Guide

Funds to support the Scholarship Program are generated from the Monterey County Fair Heritage Foundation and its fundraisers in support of the Monterey County Livestock Show and Fair. Three scholarships will be awarded (1) \$2,500 Heritage Animal scholarship and (2) \$750 Merit scholarships. Please select the scholarship(s) you wish to apply for:

Heritage Animal

Merit Scholarship

This program seeks to motivate well-rounded high academic achievers in pursuit of their careers and life goals in the areas of agriculture. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, personal commitment and goals established for his/her field, leadership potential, and civic accomplishments.

Eligibility/Application Requirements

1. Must be a Junior or Senior in High School within Monterey County at the time of submitting the application.
2. Must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and be a student in good standing.
3. A personal statement of no more than two typed pages (double spaced, 14 font size) must accompany your application. Please indicate why you are pursuing your desired career and what you hope to accomplish.
4. A copy of your transcript (for current 2025-2026 school year) must accompany this application.
5. Selected applicants will be required to participate in a formal interview with the Heritage Foundation Board Scholarship Committee. Location TBD with all parties on May 25th or May 26th.
6. Each application packet must include:
 - a. Heritage Foundation Scholarship application form;
 - b. Personal Statement;
 - c. Copy of your high school transcript (cumulative for current school year);
 - d. It is *recommended* Applicant submit three current letters of recommendation, one of which is from a professional educator. Letters of recommendation may not come from family members and/or any current Heritage Foundation Directors or Monterey County Fair employees. Letters must be dated within the current school year and must be on official letterhead (if sent from a school or business), signed, scanned and **emailed as a PDF** with your application to the following email:

montereycountyfairheritage@gmail.com

7. Application packets and all their contents become property of the Heritage Foundation and the Monterey County Fair.
8. Applicants must be a resident of Monterey County and a member in good standing of either 4-H or FFA, at the time of the application.
9. Completed application packets must be **submitted** no later than **May 15, 2026**. Email the completed packet to montereycountyfairheritage@gmail.com (Send all packet items listed above as a PDF)

Only an official “MCF Heritage Foundation” application will be accepted (NO exceptions to this requirement). Applications may be printed from the Heritage foundation page on the Monterey County Fair’s website, mcfheritagefoundation.com.

Heritage Animal Scholarship Winner Information/Requirements:

1. Applicants must be able to raise and show a market animal (swine, sheep, goat) for the 2026 Monterey County Fair & Livestock Show (September 1 to September 7, 2026).
2. The cost of the Heritage animal as well as the feed and supplies will be covered by the Heritage Foundation and the animal should be purchased no later than June 15, 2026, and will be sold at the conclusion of the Jr. Livestock Auction on Saturday, September 5, 2026.

Note: This animal does not count as your Fair entry, and this animal cannot be shown in any market or showmanship divisions and classes at the Monterey County Fair or elsewhere. All market animal rules and regulations for species shown must be followed per Monterey County Fair Entry Guidebook Local and Livestock Rules. This includes all weight limits.

Please Note: All scholarship checks will be paid directly to the recipient upon receipt of their post-secondary “Proof of Enrollment” to a university or trade school. The monies given may be used for the recipients’ needs at school, without a requirement of receipts. ***Scholarship funds must be used within two years of high school graduation***

Interviews will be held the week of May 25th for those selected, location TBD by all parties. Awarded recipient will be notified email/phone after June 1, 2026 and no later than June 3, 2026.

For further information, visit: mcfheritagefoundation.com or you may contact:

Heritage Foundation Scholarship Chair - Nicole Hostert
Email: nicole.hostert@gmail.com

Available for call/text/email
Cell: (530)723-8774