

2026 KANSAS SPACE EXPLORATION SCHOLARSHIP

Ad Astra Kansas Foundation

Purpose: The Ad Astra Kansas Foundation, a non-profit organization, is offering college scholarships for students attending Kansas institutions who are studying for careers in space exploration. Areas of study may include but are not limited to planetary science, astronomy, astrobiology, human spaceflight, rocketry, spacecraft design, and robotics.

Award Components: Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded—one to a graduate student and one to a full-time undergraduate beyond their freshman year (sophomore, junior, or senior). In addition, a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to an incoming freshman for the 2026–2027 academic year. Each winner will receive two Cosmosphere all-mission tickets.

Recipients will also be invited to the April outreach day in Topeka and the August Galaxy Forum in Hutchinson. Attendance at these events is optional and does not affect scholarship eligibility. Any travel expense reimbursements must be pre-approved by the committee.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicants must be a graduate student, current full-time undergraduate student, or planning to enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in an accredited Kansas college, university, or vocational-technical school for the 2026–2027 school year.
2. Eligible majors include science, engineering, or any program that can contribute to the advancement of space exploration.
3. Applicants must not have previously received a \$1000 Ad Astra Kansas Foundation Scholarship. Honorable Mention recipients are eligible to apply.

To be considered for this scholarship, complete the online [Google Application Form](#) by March 1, 2026, at 11:59 PM Central Time & submit the following as a single PDF:

1. An original essay (one page) on any experiences or projects that have prepared or inspired you for a career in space exploration. (30%)
2. An original essay (one page) on your career goals after completing your education and how you plan to contribute to space exploration. (30%)
3. CV or Resume (no page limit). Include education, awards & honors, professional & volunteering experience, publications & conferences, skills, etc. (30%)
4. All unofficial college transcripts (no page limit). Incoming freshmen or current college freshmen must include high school transcripts. *Remove social security numbers, or any other sensitive personal information if listed.* (10%)
5. [Applicants younger than 18 years old will need a parent/guardian consent form.](#)

Applicants will be notified of their application status in April 2026; individual scores will not be disclosed. Scholarship checks will be sent to the recipient's institution for Fall 2026. For questions, contact Sarah Lamm, Scholarship Committee Head, at contact@adastra-ks.org.

Follow us on Facebook for updates: facebook.com/AdAstraKansasFoundation. Or our website: <https://adastra-ks.org/>

Note: Applications that do not follow the directions — such as those that are late, incomplete, incorrectly named files, multiple files, illegible or unopenable PDF, non-PDF formats — will not be considered. Applicants will not be contacted for corrections. Applicants should not ask for feedback or individual scores as these will not be provided.