

# DWSOC 2025 Ruth Clark Honorary Scholarship Award Application



The Democratic Women of South Orange County is a chartered club under the Democratic Party of Orange County. We work to get local Democrats elected to office and are committed to social and economic equality, environmental protection, affordable healthcare, a high-quality public education, and the promotion of a diverse culture.

One of the ways DWSOC seeks to promote lasting change in our community is by supporting, fostering, and mentoring young Democrats. As Benjamin Disraeli wisely said, “The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity”. We believe by encouraging and recognizing our local, young Democrats we are promoting and protecting Democratic ideals in our country and in the world – now and into the future.

## Eligibility Requirements

- Graduating high school senior or transfer student for the current 2024-2025 academic year from one of the following schools:
  - Dana Hills High School, San Clemente High School, San Juan Hills High School, Saddleback College
- Demonstrated community involvement consistent with promoting democracy and Democratic ideals.
- Registered or Pre-Registered as a Democrat.
  - *Applicants must provide verification of Voter Registration or Pre-Registration as part of their Application Submission. This documentation could be a screenshot of your online registration or a copy of a Voter Registration confirmation you received. If you have not yet registered to vote, you may register here: “Online Voter Registration Form” of the California Secretary of State: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>*
- Completed Application Form with two (2) questions and an Essay (choice of one (1) of three Essay questions).
- Completed [Recommendation Survey](#) (only 1 recommendation please) from a teacher, counselor, academic advisor, coach, or work supervisor/manager of the student
  - *The Recommendation Survey must be received by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 13, 2025. Please reach out to your recommender as soon as possible.*

## Award Details

- DWSOC will award a minimum of four (4) scholarships up to \$1,000. Graduating seniors or transfer students from any of the following schools are eligible: Dana Hills High School, San Clemente High School, San Juan Hills High School, and Saddleback College. High school award recipients will be announced during the schools’ Senior Awards Night Event, and DWSOC will reach out to Saddleback College award recipient(s) directly.
- Scholarship awards will be based on how well the student demonstrates leadership, community involvement, and commitment to advancing Democratic ideals.

## Terms and Timing

- Students must submit all required application materials (Application Form, Essay, proof of Voter Registration) **no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, April 13, 2025** to [scholarships@dwsoc.org](mailto:scholarships@dwsoc.org). The Recommendation Survey must also be received by the same deadline.
- High school award recipients will be announced during the schools’ Senior Awards Night Event, and DWSOC will reach out to Saddleback College award recipient(s) directly.
- Award checks will be presented to Award Winners at the DWSOC June 2025 General Meeting where all students awarded our Scholarship will be introduced to the Board and Membership. Recipients will be recognized by DWSOC on its website, Social Media, and in local media Press Releases.
- Decisions on awardees/amounts will be made by the DWSOC Scholarship Committee & Executive Board. DWSOC reserves the right to award multiple scholarships to students at the same school if it so chooses.



## Essay

**Instructions:** Please select only one of the following three questions to answer. Your essay should be 2-3 pages double spaced, and you should include your name typed on the first page. Please email your completed essay to us in PDF format along with your completed application.

- 1. Democracy around the world, and in the United States, appears to be under attack. What can we as citizens do to defend democracy?**
- 2. Civil rights leader and Democratic Member of Congress John Lewis said, "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something." What are you doing to make your community and world more right, fair, and just?**
- 3. What problems and challenges in our current political system are hindering our democratic ideals? Choose one issue and share how you think our leaders should work to solve this problem.**

## Recommendation

Please select a teacher, counselor, academic advisor, coach, or work supervisor/manager or other non-family member to complete the Recommendation Survey, [linked here](#) or at [tinyurl.com/dwsoc2025](http://tinyurl.com/dwsoc2025). Only one (1) Recommendation Survey per student is allowed to be submitted.

The Recommendation Survey **must** be received by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 13, 2025, so please send the form to your recommender as soon as possible. We will confirm their submission with them directly via email following survey completion.

*If you have any questions, please contact Scholarship Chair Amy Baxter at [scholarships@dwsoc.org](mailto:scholarships@dwsoc.org) or call her directly at (949) 370-0521.*

## Application Submission

Please submit your application materials (Application Form, Essay, proof of Voter Registration) to [scholarships@dwsoc.org](mailto:scholarships@dwsoc.org), and ask your recommender to complete the Recommendation Survey by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 13, 2025. All materials must be received by the due date to be considered complete and eligible.

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are **true and complete**. I also agree to release to the DWSOC scholarship program data which includes, but is not limited to, the use of my name and picture in promotions, press releases, publications and fundraising activities. I acknowledge with my signature below that DWSOC reserves the right to verify my voter registration status as part of this application process.

<b>Student Name (printed)</b>	
<b>Student Signature</b> <i>(digital or wet signature accepted)</i>	
<b>Date</b>	

*If you have any questions, please contact the DWSOC Scholarships Committee Co-Chair Amy Baxter at [scholarships@dwsoc.org](mailto:scholarships@dwsoc.org) or call her directly at (949) 370-0521.*