

# DWSOC 2026 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.

## **To the Recommender:**

Thank you for taking the time to make a recommendation for this student. Your feedback is critical in helping us understand a full picture of the applicant and their commitment to promoting democratic ideals. We will rely on your recommendation as an important component of evaluating the student.

Please complete the Recommendation Survey [linked here](#) (or available at [tinyurl.com/dwsoc2026](https://tinyurl.com/dwsoc2026)) by no later than 11:59pm on Friday, April 10, 2026.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

- Graduating high school senior or transfer student for the current 2025-2026 academic year from Dana Hills High School, San Clemente High School, San Juan Hills High School, or Saddleback College
- Demonstrated community involvement consistent with promoting democracy and Democratic ideals.
- Registered or Pre-Registered to vote as a Democrat.
- Completed and signed Application Form and one completed Essay.
- **Completed [Recommendation Survey](#) (only one recommendation please) from a teacher, counselor, academic advisor, coach, or work supervisor/manager of the student**

## **Award Details**

- DWSOC will award a minimum of four 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 Friday, April 10, 2026** to [scholarships@dwsoc.org](mailto:scholarships@dwsoc.org). The Recommendation Survey must also be received by the same deadline.
- Use of AI (ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Quillbot, etc.) tools in your application materials is strongly prohibited. Evidence of AI use will disqualify your application.
- 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 2026 General Meeting where all students awarded our Scholarship will be introduced to the club 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.