

2026 Strength & Honor Scholarship

Official Rules & Important Dates

Presented by Toth Buick GMC and Spartan Sports Ohio LLC

The 2026 Strength & Honor Scholarship is intended to recognize one graduating Stark County high school football student-athlete whose character, leadership, academic commitment, service, perseverance, teamwork, sportsmanship, and athletic commitment reflect the values of **Strength & Honor**.

The scholarship is awarded through the partnership of **Toth Buick GMC** and **Spartan Sports Ohio LLC**.

1. Eligibility

To be considered, a nominee must:

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Have participated in Stark County high school football
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of **3.0**
- Be in good standing and eligible to graduate
- Plan to continue education or training through an approved college, university, technical school, certification program, training program, or other post-secondary path
- Meet all published nomination and finalist deadlines

2. Nomination Process

Nominations must be submitted using the official 2026 Strength & Honor Scholarship nomination form or approved online nomination process.

Spartan Sports Ohio LLC may independently research and verify information submitted during the nomination process. This may include reviewing publicly available information and, when appropriate, contacting schools, coaches, teachers, administrators, community organizations, or other relevant sources.

Athletic performance, statistics, awards, and recognition may be considered, but no single athletic accomplishment will determine the scholarship recipient.

3. Selection of Three Finalists

Following review of nominations and supporting research, **three finalists** will be selected.

Finalists will be notified on **November 16, 2026**.

Each finalist will be required to provide additional materials, including:

- A personal video response
- One recommendation representing football or athletics
- One recommendation representing academics or school
- One recommendation representing community service or community involvement
- Any additional information or documentation reasonably necessary to verify submitted information

All finalist materials must be received by November 30, 2026 at 11:59 PM.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Finalists will be evaluated across six core areas:

- 1 Character & Integrity
- 2 Leadership & Teamwork
- 3 Academic Commitment & Growth
- 4 Perseverance & Resilience
- 5 Service & Community Impact
- 6 Athletic Commitment & Sportsmanship

The complete body of information will be considered, including the nomination, independent research, academic and athletic information, finalist video, recommendations, and other verified materials.

Video production quality, recruiting profile, social-media popularity, school prominence, or personal familiarity with those involved in the scholarship process will not provide an advantage.

5. Final Selection

Toth Buick GMC and Spartan Sports Ohio LLC will select the scholarship recipient collectively.

Any scoring or evaluation system used during the process is intended to support thoughtful and consistent review and will not automatically determine the recipient.

The final selection decision is final.

6. Fairness in Selection

If an individual involved in selecting the scholarship recipient has a close personal, family, financial, or professional relationship with a nominee that could reasonably affect impartiality, that relationship should be disclosed.

When appropriate, that individual will not participate in evaluating that nominee.

This provision is not intended to exclude someone merely because they know a student-athlete, coach, school, or family through normal high school athletics, media coverage, community involvement, or professional interaction.

The purpose of this rule is to identify and appropriately address relationships significant enough to reasonably call an evaluator's impartiality into question.

The goal is a fair, consistent, and good-faith evaluation based on the published Strength & Honor criteria.

7. Scholarship Award

The total scholarship award is \$10,000.

The current payment structure is:
Year 1 - \$5,000
Year 2 - \$2,500
Year 3 - \$2,500

Subsequent installments are subject to verification of continued enrollment in an approved post-secondary institution or program.

No additional GPA requirement currently applies to the second- or third-year installment beyond continued enrollment.

8. Continued Enrollment Verification

Prior to release of each subsequent scholarship installment, the recipient must provide satisfactory documentation confirming current enrollment at an accredited or otherwise approved post-secondary institution or program.

Acceptable documentation may include:

- Official enrollment verification
- Registrar statement
- Current class schedule
- National Student Clearinghouse verification
- Other documentation reasonably accepted by the scholarship administrator

Spartan Sports Ohio LLC and/or the designated scholarship administrator may independently verify enrollment through the recipient's institution, the National Student Clearinghouse, or another appropriate source, subject to applicable privacy laws and any required student authorization.

Failure to provide satisfactory enrollment verification by the required deadline may delay or suspend the applicable installment.

9. Confidentiality

Personal information submitted during the nomination and finalist process will be treated as confidential by Spartan Sports Ohio LLC and used solely for scholarship review, verification, evaluation, selection, and administration.

Information may be shared only with authorized individuals involved in the scholarship process, including Toth Buick GMC, and with schools, references, or other appropriate sources when reasonably necessary to verify submitted information.

Personal information will not be publicly released without appropriate consent, except for information reasonably necessary to announce or recognize finalists or the scholarship recipient.

10. Goodwill & Conduct

The Strength & Honor Scholarship is offered in a spirit of goodwill, opportunity, service, and support for student-athletes.

Respectful advocacy on behalf of a nominee or finalist is welcome.

Public attacks, harassment, knowingly false statements, attempts to improperly influence the selection process, or conduct intended to disparage a nominee or finalist will not be considered appropriate participation in the scholarship process.

A student-athlete will not automatically be penalized for the independent behavior of a parent, fan, teammate, or other third party unless there is evidence that the student-athlete directed, encouraged, or participated in that conduct.

11. IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 31, 2026	NOMINATIONS CLOSE
NOVEMBER 16, 2026	THREE FINALISTS NOTIFIED
NOVEMBER 30, 2026 AT 11:59 PM	FINALIST MATERIALS DUE
DECEMBER 4, 2026	SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT PRIVATELY NOTIFIED
Week of December 14, 2026	Presentation & Photography, exact date to be determined

12. Official Scholarship Information

Official scholarship information will be published through Spartan Sports Ohio LLC and the official Strength & Honor Scholarship webpage.

If information appearing elsewhere conflicts with the officially published scholarship rules, the official published rules will govern.

For questions regarding the scholarship:

2026scholarship@spartansportsohio.com