

THE 2025 LOUIS ROBERT SOSCIA, JR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR SERVICE

Sponsored by the MONTCLAIR LIONS CLUB of VIRGINIA

Eligibility: To qualify for this scholarship 12th grade students must be attending a High School (Public, Private or Home School) in Prince William County and live in the 22193 zip code. Additionally, Seniors participating in the Montclair Leo Club are also eligible.

Introduction: The Montclair Lions award one scholarship each year to a graduating senior preparing to pursue higher education who has demonstrated superior commitment and support to serving others in the local community, while still pursuing academic achievement in school. The exact Scholarship amount varies based on funds raised during the year awarded but generally average \$1000 per scholarship.

All applications must be submitted by Electronic (Digital) filing by 21 April, 2025 to montclairlion246@gmail.com, and must be reviewed by a student's parent or guidance counselor for accuracy. Applications will not be considered after this date.

Selection Criteria: This scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the following criteria:

- Completeness of application and details provided,
- Demonstrated commitment to community through service hours provided to others as documented by list of individuals and organizations served.
- Expressed understanding of 1) why community service is important, 2) who it benefits and 3) how it has affected or enriched the student,
- Demonstrated academic interests as documented via student transcripts,
- Recognition of services provided as documented by at least two letters of recommendation from adults involved in the service project or event supported.
- A statement provided by an adult that the data presented is accurate and true.

History and Background: This specific scholarship is named after Louis (Lou) Robert Soscia, a well-respected Lion and long-time member of the Dale City Lions Club where he gained many lasting and treasured relationships with many its members. He passed at his home in July 2024.

Lou grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and spent the last 24 years of his life in his beloved town of Occoquan, Virginia - surrounded by wonderful neighbors who were family to him. Throughout his years in Occoquan, Lou became involved with various events around town. When family and friends came to visit, they were always given a tour of his favorite shops and sights. Typically, ending in one of the waterfront parks or a dining venue overlooking the Occoquan River. His quick wit and quirky sense of humor was why he was loved by anyone he

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met. He was so proud of his nieces and nephews and their accomplishments and one of greatest joys was making people laugh.

Lou began working as an agent for State Farm in 1986. Upon retiring from State Farm in 2019 instead of kicking back and taking it easy, Lou began his volunteer service at Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center Auxiliary in the emergency room and surgical services. You could also find him on the road, volunteering for ACTS to deliver food to homebound seniors or those with a disability. As a Lion, Lou was involved with his community to help make a positive difference for his neighbors. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He moved through his life quietly but with purpose, intent, kindness, humor, and most of all great generosity. It is this life of service to others which should serve as an inspiration to those seeking this award.

The Application Process: Students must send an “Intent to Apply” E-mail providing their name, the name of their high school or home school, and contact information for themselves and their school counselor. Please E-mail intent to: montclairlion246@gmail.com by **1 April 2025**.

Students must then compile and forward their application and all supporting materials by **21 April 2025 to the same Email address**. The application may be a combination of an E-mail and attachments, in MS Word, or PDF format, or a single combined file in either format.

The application must be coordinated with Parents or individual Guidance Counselors and include a signed statement that the data presented is accurate and true.

The scholarship winner will be determined by the Montclair Lions Club Scholarship Committee and ranked according to the Selection Criteria presented below. Top applicants may be interviewed by the Committee, if necessary.

Instructions:

- 1) The student must submit their intent to apply by 1 April 2025, and their full and complete application by 21 April 2025, to montclairlion246@gmail.com.
- 2) The student must document their service to the community around them by providing a resume/listing of the community service activities, projects, and events they have supported during high school. These efforts may be sponsored by their school, church, or the community at large. This resume/listing should describe the activities, the types of service provided, the approximate time spent participating in each, and the number of people who benefited. Please also include a name and telephone number of a contact person for each supported activity, if available.

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- 3) The student must compose and submit an original essay of not more than 400 words discussing some aspect of their community service experience. Specifically, they should document and explain; a) why providing community service at the high school level is important, b) who they're service has benefited, c) how it has affected or enriched their life or the lives of those around them, and d) their plans for continuing to support their community through service in the future.
- 4) The student must show continued academic achievement concurrent with providing community service, as validated by a copy of their high school transcripts showing cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4 point scale. Please also include a list of any honors or distinctions received during high school.
- 5) The student must demonstrate plans for continuing their education as verified by at least one letter of acceptance to either a two or four year college.
- 6) The student must provide copies of at least two letters of recommendation, preferably from an individual involved in some aspect of their community service involvement (e.g. faculty/advisor of a school club, community organization or church group). Alternatively, a letter of recommendation could be from someone who benefited from the student's involvement.

Application:

1. Student Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
Telephone No. _____ Email Address: _____
Email Address for School Counselor: _____
Senior High School being attended: _____
GPA and SAT Scores (if taken): _____
College where student has been accepted: _____
A statement on financial need (if applicable): _____
Signatures of Applicant _____
Signature and Parent/Guidance Counselor attesting all information is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge. _____

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2. Resume/List of community services and activities participated in during high school,
3. An original essay documenting the student's involvement and life lessons learned by participation in community service.
4. A copy of the student's High Schools transcripts documenting academic standing, plus a list of any Honors or Distinctions achieved in school, work and or service,
5. A minimum of two letters of recommendation
6. A copy of an acceptance letter from either a 2 or 4 year accredited higher educational program.
7. A statement of financial need, if applicable.

Instruction to Parents and Guidance Counselor:

Please review the student's information and all requested documents for accuracy.

Who are the Montclair Lions:

The Montclair Lions are a 501(c)3 charitable organization chartered over 42 years ago, providing service and support to our local community. We raise and donate funds to local charities and volunteer our time to help a variety of charitable organizations including; Habitat for Humanity, ACTS, Dumfries-Triangle Volunteer Fire Department, Hilda Barg Homeless Shelter, and Virginia Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinics. We host a semi-annual Drug-Take-Back Day, and participate annually in the Quantico Christmas Wreath laying. We are also a major supporter of sight and hearing screenings at local Prince William County schools, and we collect and recycle used glasses for distribution overseas.

In addition, we sponsor and provide financial support to the Virginia Diabetes Youth Camps, Vision Walk, the Leader Dog Program, Old Dominion Eye Foundation, Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) Sight First Program, Northern Virginia Sight & Hearing Van, Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Lions Hearing Aid Bank Foundation, Special Olympics, Youth for Tomorrow, DTQ Little League.

Our club website is <https://montclairlions.org>