



2026

Scholarship Opportunity

Preserving Katy's stories. Investing in Katy's future.

APPLICATION + LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT

October 1, 2026

Submission deadline

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

November 2026

KHS General Meeting

KatyHeritageSociety@outlook.com

KatyHeritageSociety.com

2026 Scholarship Opportunity

Katy was built by hardworking visionaries who settled the prairie, established businesses, raised families, served their community, and created opportunities for generations to come.

In that same spirit, the Katy Heritage Society Scholarship supports individuals who are pursuing education or training to advance their careers, learn a trade, pursue higher education, or create greater opportunities for themselves and their families.

The Katy Heritage Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and sharing Katy's historic resources and stories. Scholarship funding is made possible through fundraising efforts, contributions from members and friends of the Society, and proceeds from *Historic Katy*.

Katy Heritage Society anticipates awarding at least one scholarship of up to \$1,000. The number and amount of scholarships awarded may vary based on available funding and the quality of applications received.

ELIGIBILITY

The Katy Heritage Society Scholarship is intentionally open to applicants at **all stages of life and career. There is no age restriction.**

High school seniors, current college or technical students, working adults, and individuals returning to school or pursuing career training are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must:

- Reside or work within the geographic boundaries of the Katy Independent School District.
- Be pursuing or planning to pursue education or career training through an accredited community college, college, university, business or vocational program, continuing education program, technical school, or other qualifying educational institution.
- Be enrolled in an eligible educational or career-training program at some point during the scholarship award period, beginning in **November 2026 and ending October 31, 2027.**
- Provide proof of enrollment before scholarship funds are distributed.

Applicants do not have to be enrolled at the time they submit their application.

LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT

As part of the application, each applicant will complete an **original Local History Project** that helps document, preserve, or share an aspect of the history of Katy and the greater Katy area.

Applicants may choose **one of two project options**:

OPTION 1 - Local History Research Project

Research and present an aspect of Katy-area history. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- A notable person or family
- Historic homes or buildings
- A longtime Katy business
- Schools and education
- Agriculture, farming, ranching, or rice production
- Railroads and transportation
- Churches and faith communities
- Community organizations
- Local government and civic development
- Significant events
- Traditions and celebrations
- Neighborhoods or communities
- Sports and athletics
- How Katy has changed or developed over time
- Another topic that contributes to understanding and preserving Katy-area history

Projects should incorporate **original research** and may include photographs, historical documents, newspaper articles, archival materials, personal collections, interviews, or other appropriate primary and secondary sources.

All quoted, paraphrased, and summarized information must be appropriately credited. The book *Historic Katy* may be used as a resource but **may not serve as the primary or significant source** for the project.

OPTION 2 - Oral History Interview Project

Interview a person who has played an important role in Katy or who has meaningful firsthand knowledge, experiences, or memories that contribute to preserving Katy's history.

Possible interview subjects include a longtime resident; teacher, principal, coach, or educator; business owner; farmer or rancher; first responder; civic or community leader; elected or former elected official; church or faith-community leader; community volunteer; someone associated with a longtime Katy organization; or another person whose experiences help tell Katy's story.

Oral History Interview Project - What to Submit

- An introduction explaining who was interviewed and the person's connection to Katy.
- An explanation of why the applicant chose this individual.
- A written narrative or summary highlighting important stories, experiences, information, and historical context learned through the interview.
- A reflection on why the person's story is important to preserving or understanding Katy's history.
- A recording and/or transcript of the interview, when available and authorized by the interviewee.
- A signed Katy Heritage Society Oral History Interview Release Form.

PROJECT GUIDELINES

There is **no required page or word count**. Katy Heritage Society is interested in meaningful, original work that contributes to our mission of preserving local history - not a particular length or academic writing style.

Applicants are encouraged to use resources throughout the community, including local residents, businesses, organizations, libraries, archives, newspapers, photographs, family collections, public records, and other historical materials. Creativity in the selection and presentation of a topic is encouraged.

ORIGINAL WORK + ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

The Local History Project must represent the applicant's **own research, interviews, analysis, ideas, and writing**.

Applicants may use generative artificial intelligence tools for limited assistance such as brainstorming, organizing ideas, or proofreading.

Artificial intelligence **may not** be used to generate the applicant's research, fabricate or generate interview content, perform the applicant's historical analysis, or write the final submitted project on the applicant's behalf.

Applicants are responsible for independently verifying the accuracy of all historical information and sources included in their project. **Fabricated sources, quotations, interviews, historical information, or citations will result in disqualification.**

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Deadline: October 1, 2026 | Submit electronically to **KatyHeritageSociety@outlook.com**

- Completed 2026 Katy Heritage Society Scholarship Application
- Completed Local History Project
- Sources/citations as appropriate
- For Oral History Projects: signed Oral History Interview Release Form
- Any supplemental photographs, recordings, documents, or materials the applicant wishes to include

Incomplete or late applications may not be considered.

JUDGING

To promote impartiality, identifying information will be removed or concealed from Local History Projects before they are provided to judges whenever reasonably possible. A panel selected by the Katy Heritage Society will evaluate eligible submissions.

Projects will be considered based on:

- Historical accuracy and responsible use of sources
- Historical value and relevance to Katy
- Originality and depth of research or interview
- Quality and clarity of presentation
- Applicant's understanding of the subject
- Contribution to documenting or preserving Katy-area history

Because oral-history projects and research projects are intentionally different formats, applicants will **not be disadvantaged based on which project option they select**.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Katy Heritage Society anticipates awarding **at least one scholarship of up to \$1,000**. The number and amount of scholarships awarded may vary based on available funding and the quality of applications received.

Scholarship recipient(s) will be announced at the **November 2026 General Meeting of the Katy Heritage Society**.

The scholarship award period begins when the scholarship is awarded in November 2026 and continues through **October 31, 2027**.

Recipients must be enrolled in an eligible educational or career-training program during this period and must provide proof of enrollment before funds are distributed. Scholarship funds will be paid **directly to the educational institution or eligible program** attended by the recipient.

Scholarships may not be assigned or transferred, and no cash-equivalent award will be made directly to the recipient. If a recipient does not meet the eligibility requirements or provide required enrollment verification by October 31, 2027, the scholarship will be forfeited.

PUBLICITY + PRESERVATION OF SUBMITTED PROJECTS

Scholarship recipients agree that Katy Heritage Society may announce their name and use photographs taken in connection with the scholarship for reasonable Society publicity, including its website, social media, newsletters, and other communications.

By submitting a project, applicants grant Katy Heritage Society permission to **retain, archive, reproduce, display, and use the submitted project for historical, educational, and nonprofit purposes**, with appropriate credit to the applicant.

Oral-history interviews are additionally subject to the permissions provided by the interviewee on the Oral History Interview Release Form.

2026 Scholarship Application

Please complete all applicable fields. Attach additional pages if needed.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name

Address

City / State / ZIP

Email

Phone

Current occupation, employer, and/or school status

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Institution / Program

Years Attended

Degree / Certification Earned or Pursued

Additional institution / program, if applicable

2026 Scholarship Application - Continued

FUTURE PLANS

What are your future educational or occupational plans?

How would this scholarship help you fulfill those plans?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please list volunteer activities, community service, nonprofit involvement, civic organizations, or other ways you have contributed to your community.

LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT INFORMATION

Which project option are you submitting?

- ☐ Local History Research Project
- ☐ Oral History Interview Project

Project Title

Project Topic

Why did you choose this topic or person?

How does your project contribute to documenting, understanding, or preserving Katy's history?

Project Information + Applicant Certification

If submitting an Oral History Interview Project:

Name of person interviewed

Interviewee's connection to Katy

Date of interview

☐ Signed Oral History Interview Release Form attached

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and that the submitted Local History Project represents my own work. I understand and agree to the scholarship eligibility requirements, original-work requirements, and terms contained in this application packet.

Applicant Signature

Date

Before submitting: Include this application, your Local History Project, sources/citations as appropriate, and - if applicable - the signed Oral History Interview Release Form.

Oral History Interview Release Form

Complete this form only if the applicant is submitting an Oral History Interview Project.

Oral History Project Title

Interviewer / Scholarship Applicant

Interviewee

Date of Interview

I voluntarily participated in an oral-history interview conducted as part of the Katy Heritage Society Scholarship Program. I understand that the purpose of this interview is to help document and preserve stories, memories, experiences, and information related to the history of Katy and the greater Katy area.

I give Katy Heritage Society permission to retain the interview and materials submitted with it as part of its historical collection, subject to the permissions I select below.

Interviewee Permission

- ☐ Katy Heritage Society may retain the written interview, transcript, or summary in its historical collection.
- ☐ Katy Heritage Society may retain the audio and/or video recording of my interview.
- ☐ Katy Heritage Society may make the interview or portions of it available to researchers and the public for historical and educational purposes.
- ☐ Katy Heritage Society may reproduce, publish, display, or share excerpts from the interview through exhibits, publications, its website, social media, educational materials, or other nonprofit historical purposes.
- ☐ Katy Heritage Society may identify me by name in connection with the interview.

Interviewee Signature

Date

Phone or Email

If the interviewee is under 18:

Parent / Legal Guardian Name

Parent / Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Questions? KatyHeritageSociety@outlook.com