

2026 Friends of Horseshoe Park Scholarships

Friends of Horseshoe Park is a 501(c)3 dedicated to supporting the Town of Queen Creek's Horseshoe Park and Equestrian Centre (HPEC) and promoting the rural heritage of Queen Creek. We provide volunteer support for HPEC events and ongoing upkeep, and are best known for hosting Roots N' Boots Queen Creek (RNBQC). Roots N' Boots Queen Creek is a signature Queen Creek event, and features five PRCA Pro Rodeo performances, a full size carnival and midway, vendors, as well as free family events throughout the weekend. In addition, there are several community equestrian events held in conjunction with Roots N' Boots Queen Creek throughout the year.

To put on this event takes an incredible amount of volunteer hours. To recognize the youth and young adults who assist in planning and/or staffing the event, we are offering TWO educational scholarships.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Top Hand Scholarship: High Schoolers who are a Junior or Senior as of January 2026 and have not received a Top Hand Scholarship previously
Herd Boss Scholarship: College students who are in their freshman, sophomore, or junior year as of January 2026 and have not received a Herd Boss Scholarship previously.
2. Volunteered for Roots N' Boots Queen Creek 2025, or any other FOHP sponsored event - volunteer form must be on file or other verification of volunteering.
3. Was not reigning Roots N' Boots Queen Creek Royalty during 2025.
4. Top Hand Scholarship:
 - a. Volunteers who are a senior in high school and have applied to, or been accepted and plan to attend, an accredited university, trade school or community college, as of January 2026. This may include college class credits taken during their Senior year at their current High School (or home school)
 - OR –
 - b. Volunteers who are a junior in high school as of January 2026 and plan to attend an accredited university, trade school or community college upon graduation. This may include college class credits taken during their Junior or Senior year at their current High School (or home school).
5. Herd Boss Scholarship
 - a. Volunteers who are currently enrolled in an accredited university, trade school or community college as a freshman, sophomore, or junior as of January 2026.

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General Information

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. All personal information is held in strict confidence by members serving on the Friends of Horseshoe Park Scholarship Committee
2. GPA *will not* be a major factor in the selection process, but a copy of your current transcript will be required with your application.
3. Scholarships funds will be deposited with the institution to be attended by the recipient OR paid directly to recipient for books or housing with proof of payment.
4. The scholarship winner(s) will be announced at Roots N' Boots Queen Creek 2026 Thank You Dinner (Date TBD)
5. All scholarship money must be used within 90 days after graduation or 90 days after class enrollment (for college classes) or scholarships may be rescinded
6. **Any application submitted without meeting all the criteria required will not be considered for this scholarship.**
7. **All applications are due by 5:00pm on March 7, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

If you would like to apply for the 2025 Friends of Horseshoe Park Scholarship, please complete the enclosed application, provide all other required information and return to a Friends of Horseshoe Park Board Member or mail to:

**Friends of Horseshoe Park
Scholarship Selection Committee
PO Box 1062
Queen Creek, AZ 85142**

TO APPLY, AN APPLICANT MUST:

1. Complete the attached application, both the General page and the Top Hand OR Herd Boss specific page, but not both. Applications **must** be typed.
2. Attach a current school transcript. GPA *will not* be a major factor in selection process.
3. Include a 4"x6" or similar photo of yourself – if possible, submit picture from ROOTS N' BOOTS QUEEN CREEK
4. Include (2) letters of recommendation: one from another Roots N' Boots Queen Creek volunteer and one from school guidance counselor, clergy, employer or other community leader(s).
5. Complete an essay (300-500) words, double spaced OR have complete a video essay that runs 5-7 minutes. Topics listed below. Video essays may be spoken or sung or any combination thereof, but video essays must feature the applicant, and be in the applicant's own words. Back-up singers or other non-essential folks in the video are acceptable. Interviewing others is acceptable as long as the interview portion is less than 90 seconds of your video.

TOPICS – choose from ONE of the following and clearly indicate on your essay or in your video package which topic you have chosen.

A. What is Roots N' Boots Queen Creek and why it is an important, signature event for our town

B. Why are volunteers important to Roots N' Boots Queen Creek, and what have you learned/gained from your time volunteering for this event

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Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Birth Date _____ Age _____

List the years you have volunteered for RNBQC (e.g., 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2024, 2025) _____

Will you be volunteering for the 2025 event? (yes/no) _____

If not, why not? _____

Scholarship you are applying for*

____ Top Hand Scholarship – Currently in High School*

____ Herd Boss Scholarship – Currently attending College

*if you taking college courses but are technically still attending high school, please apply for the Top Hand Scholarship

Current Grade Level _____

Expected Date of Graduation _____

School Counselor Name _____

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Application

Describe your role as a volunteer for Roots N' Boots Queen Creek. If you have volunteered multiple years, please begin with your first year as a volunteer and end with your time as a 2024 volunteer. Use additional paper if necessary.

List membership in school and community activities/clubs, including offices held, committee responsibilities and awards/recognition received. (For example: FFA, student council, church youth groups, etc.). Use additional paper if necessary.

Name current school _____ Phone # _____

Current School Address _____

What post-secondary school will you be attending (college or trade school) _____

What will be your major/field of study? _____

If college, what will be your minor? _____

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Application

Why have you chosen the field you are majoring in or pursuing? _____

Verify the following items are attached:

- ☐ Photo
- ☐ Recommendation letter from another RNBQC volunteer
- ☐ Recommendation letter from counselor, clergy, or other
- ☐ School transcript (as of January 2024)
- ☐ Typed essay OR
- ☐ Video essay
- ☐ Essay topic selected _____

STATEMENT BY Roots N' Boots Queen Creek Scholarship Applicant

I completed this application myself and certify that it is accurate. Further, I attest that the attached letter is my own work.

Date _____ Signature Applicant _____

We have reviewed this application and believe it to be correct:

Date _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian _____