



2026 Leadership Team Scholarship



We are proud to support our young black belt leaders at World Martial Arts through our Leadership Team Scholarship. These students showcase not only a high level of skill in Taekwondo, but lead by example and help guide the next generation of martial artists. They embody the five tenets of Taekwondo: courtesy, integrity, self-control, perseverance, and indomitable spirit, both on and off the mats. We are honored to see them grow into amazing members of our community and the wider world, able to accomplish incredible things with strength of mind, spirit, and body gained through martial arts training.

Students must be Kukkiwon-certified black belts in middle or high school and be an active member of the Leadership Team in good standing. In addition, they must have a 529 account set up in their name, since the scholarship will be directly deposited into that account. This is a competitive scholarship for \$500. Students must also write an essay or send a video to tkd.wma@gmail.com and get two letters of reference, one of which must be from an adult instructor that is not Grand Master Ko, Master Sang Mee Ko, or a family member. We will consider not only the application components, but overall behavior both at and away from the dojang.

All application materials are due by **Monday, November 2nd, 2026**.

See full details for the application below.

Eligibility:

- Kukkiwon-certified black belt
- ACTIVE Leadership Team member in good standing for **at least a year**
- 529 plan set up in their name (You will need to include your gift code on the application)
- 6th - 12th grade (middle or high school)
- Paid staff members at World Martial Arts or their children are **not** eligible. This is a scholarship for younger students or unpaid volunteers.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

1. Application sheet (see page three)
2. Two recent report cards from the past year
3. Essay OR video on provided topic (see details on page two)
4. Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an adult instructor that is **not** Grand Master Ko, Master Sang Mee Ko, or a family member. The letter should be directly emailed to tkd.wma@gmail.com OR submitted in a sealed envelope. Recommenders may choose to let the student read their letters after the submission date has passed. Letters should be less than a page in length and explain why they believe the student should receive the scholarship.

Essay Requirements:

- A typed essay of 500 - 1000 words addressing the following question: **How has Taekwondo impacted your life, and how will it continue to impact your future?**
- The student's full name should be clearly noted on the essay.
- Students should not use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (including, but not limited to ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini) to write this essay.
- Students may have assistance from humans such as their parents or teachers in writing the essay, but it will be readily apparent if a 6th grader is writing at a collegiate professor level. We are looking for an honest answer to the question in their own words to showcase their reflection on their Taekwondo journey and see if they understand the value of black belt leadership.
- Essay may be emailed to tkd.wma@gmail.com or a paper copy submitted with other application materials.

Video Requirements:

- If you choose to do a video instead of an essay, it must be a compelling video answering the question: **How has Taekwondo impacted your life, and how will it continue to impact your future?**
- Other video clips or images can be included, but any voiceover should be in the student's own voice and the video must include at least 10 seconds of the students' actual face talking.
- Text can also be used to convey the message, but most of it should be voice.
- Students should not use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (including, but not limited to ChatGPT, Claude, and Google Gemini) to create this video. AI images or clips are not allowed.

Please note that in signing the application sheet below, you consent to have your name, image, or essay/video shared by World Martial Arts or the Leadership Team Fund on their website, social media, or other display at World Martial Arts.



2026 Leadership Team Scholarship Application



Applicant's Full Name: _____

Black Belt ID Number: _____

529 Plan Gift Code: _____

Current Middle or High School: _____

Applicant's Prospective College/University/Trade School(s): _____

☐ By submitting, I consent to have my name, image, or essay/video shared by World Martial Arts or the Leadership Team Fund on their website, social media, or other display at World Martial Arts.

Applicant Signature: _____

Guardian Signature (if applicant is < 18): _____

Date: _____