

The Cooper Lyles Foundation

“Play Like Coop” — Excellence, Sportsmanship, and Heart

Student-Athlete Scholarship Application

Purpose

The Cooper Lyles Foundation Student-Athlete Scholarship was established to honor the life and legacy of Cooper Lyles by recognizing student-athletes who exemplify his values— leadership, perseverance, kindness, and dedication—both on and off the field. This scholarship celebrates those who truly “Play Like Coop”: individuals who lead with heart, lift up their teammates, and give their best effort in every aspect of life.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a graduating high school senior student athlete residing in or attending a high school located in St. Johns County, Florida.
- Be an active participant in an organized high school athletic program.
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA (unweighted).
- Plan to attend a two-year or four-year college, university, trade school or academy (fire, police, etc.) following high school graduation.
- Demonstrate strong character, sportsmanship, and community spirit.

Selection Criteria

- Character and Integrity (30%) – Displays kindness, leadership, and respect for others.
- Academic Effort (20%) – Demonstrates commitment and perseverance in academics.
- Athletic Commitment (20%) – Shows dedication, teamwork, and a strong work ethic.
- Essay Response (30%) – Reflects deeply on the meaning of “Play Like Coop.”

Application Materials

- Completed Scholarship Application Form
- One Letter of Recommendation from a coach, teacher, or community leader
- Personal Essay (500–750 words) responding to:
“What does it mean to you to ‘Play Like Coop’? Describe how you demonstrate leadership, resilience, and kindness on and off the field.”
- (Optional) A list of athletic achievements, awards, or community service activities

Award Information

- Scholarships will be awarded annually to one or more St. Johns County student-athletes.
- Award amounts will be determined by the Foundation’s Board of Directors each year.
- Funds will be paid directly to the recipient’s postsecondary institution to support tuition, books, or educational expenses.

Selection and Notification

All applications will be reviewed anonymously by the Cooper Lyles Foundation Scholarship Committee. Selected recipients will be notified of their award via email and/or telephone in *late April 2026*. Scholarship recipients will be formally announced at the Cooper Lyles Foundation's "*5/6 Day*" Dinner and recognized through the Foundation's official social media channels.

Scholarship Application Form

Full Name: _____

High School: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number (Student): _____

Phone Number (Parent): _____

Email Address (Student): _____

Email Address (Parent): _____

Intended College/Trade School: _____

Planned Field of Study: _____

GPA (unweighted): _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Sport(s) Participated in During Senior Year: _____

Short Essay (attach separately) – Please select **ONE** of the following questions to respond to in a short essay (250 words or less):

1. Describe your academic journey. What challenges have you faced in school, and how have you worked to overcome them?
2. How do you balance academic responsibilities with athletics, family, and other commitments?
3. Describe a time you struggled academically. What steps did you take to improve or persist?

Personal Essay (attach separately) – What does it mean to you to “Play Like Coop”? Describe how you demonstrate leadership, resilience, and kindness on and off the field (500-750 words).

Letter of Recommendation (attach separately) from a coach, teacher, or community leader/mentor.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit all materials by **APRIL 1, 2026** to:

thecooperlylesfoundation.org via the "Scholarships" page -> "UPLOAD FORMS" tab *OR*

Email: playlikecoopscholarships@gmail.com

Or by mail to:

The Cooper Lyles Foundation

567 Convex Ln.

St. Augustine, FL 32095

Website: www.thecooperlylesfoundation.org