

Sunrise Scholarship

2026–2027 Official Rules & Selection Policy

1. Program Purpose

The Medicine Connect Sunrise Scholarship is an educational and community service recognition program established by Medicine Connect, Inc., a 501(c)(3) public charity.

The program recognizes students who demonstrate meaningful achievement and sustained contribution in (A) Health & Medical Knowledge Communication and/or (B) Community Health Contribution.

A total of six \$500 awards will be made: three in each category, for a total program amount of \$3,000.

2. Eligibility and Nondiscrimination

Applicants must have student status during the applicable program period. Eligible levels are Middle School, High School, College, and Medical School.

The program is open to eligible students of all racial, ethnic, cultural, and national backgrounds. Medicine Connect does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or other status protected by applicable law.

Applicants do not have to be Medicine Connect members or volunteers. Medicine Connect registration and participation are encouraged, but affiliation by itself does not provide preferential scholarship consideration. For the Knowledge Communication category, however, qualifying articles must be submitted to Medicine Connect as described in Part I.

Students may participate in one or both scholarship categories.

3. Program Period

Program opens: September 2026. Submission and application deadline: June 30, 2027. Review and selection: July 2027. Awards: August–September 2027.

PART I — Health & Medical Knowledge Communication

4. Purpose and Eligible Content

This category recognizes sustained student contributions to public health and medical education. Eligible content may be based on physician or healthcare-professional education, medical lectures, reliable health resources, school learning, community experiences, volunteer experiences, or other reliable sources of established health knowledge. Articles should generally be 1,000 words or fewer and should be understandable to the general public.

5. Review and Eligible Published Article

Submissions must be made to Medicine Connect and undergo Medicine Connect editorial screening and, when appropriate, review by a physician or other qualified healthcare professional. For scoring purposes, an Eligible Published Article is a student-authored health or medical education article that was submitted to Medicine Connect, completed the applicable Medicine Connect review process, and was published or formally accepted

for publication by Medicine Connect during the program period. An article formally accepted by June 30 may count even if website publication occurs later. Articles published elsewhere do not earn Sunrise Scholarship Article Contribution Points unless they are also submitted to Medicine Connect, complete the applicable Medicine Connect review process, and are published or formally accepted for publication by Medicine Connect.

6. Article Contribution Points — No Cap

Final Article Rating	Points
Excellent	5
Very Good	4
Good	3
Not Approved / Does Not Meet Standard	0

There is no maximum number of eligible articles and no maximum Article Contribution Score. The system intentionally rewards both sustained contribution and quality.

7. Educational & Community Impact — Maximum 30 Points

Applicants may receive up to 30 additional points for the educational and community impact of their body of published work. Evidence may include public educational value, relevance, practical usefulness, audience reach, readership, engagement, sharing, dissemination, or other demonstrated benefit. Website views or social-media metrics may be considered but will not be the sole measure of impact.

8. Knowledge Communication Final Score

Final Score = total Article Contribution Points + Impact Score (maximum 30 impact points). Article Contribution Points have no cap; therefore the overall score has no cap. The three eligible applicants with the highest final scores will receive the three \$500 awards in this category.

9. AI and Digital Tools

Digital tools, including AI, may be used to assist research organization, outlining, language improvement, editing, and other appropriate aspects of writing. Use of AI does not by itself reduce a score. The student remains responsible for accuracy, reliability, integrity, and final content. Fabricated references, materially false or misleading medical information, plagiarism, or fraudulent submission may result in rejection or disqualification.

PART II — Community Health Contribution

10. Purpose

This category recognizes meaningful and sustained contributions to community health and well-being. It uses a cumulative point system. There is no 100-point ceiling and no overall score cap.

11. Eligible Activities

- Community health fairs, screenings, health education, public health awareness, and outreach.
- Service to underserved populations and health-related volunteering.
- Organizing or leading community health projects, student health programs, or volunteer teams.
- Medicine Connect programs and comparable qualifying activities through schools, hospitals, clinics, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, healthcare institutions, student organizations, or other appropriate programs.

Qualifying non-Medicine Connect activities are eligible for full consideration under the same substantive standards. Medicine Connect affiliation alone does not generate points.

12. Participation & Service Contribution — No Cap

Level of Contribution	Points per qualifying activity/contribution
Exceptional / substantial contribution	5
Strong contribution	4
Meaningful participation	3
Limited contribution	2
Basic participation	1
Ineligible / not reasonably verifiable	0

Repeated performance of substantially the same routine role may be evaluated as a sustained activity or project rather than artificially divided into many separate events.

13. Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours should be recorded when reasonably available and may support assessment of participation and commitment. Hours do not independently determine ranking and are not converted automatically into points.

14. Leadership & Initiative — No Cap

Leadership Contribution	Suggested Points
Meaningful leadership responsibility	5
Major leadership contribution	10
Exceptional leadership / project-building contribution	15

Multiple verified leadership contributions may accumulate. Medicine Connect strongly encourages meaningful leadership within its programs, but membership, affiliation, officer status, or leadership title alone earns no points. Points are based on actual work, responsibility, initiative, accomplishments, and demonstrated impact. Comparable leadership through other qualifying organizations is evaluated under the same standards.

15. Community Health Impact — No Cap

Impact points may be awarded for verified results such as people served, educational reach, services created or expanded, community partnerships, volunteers recruited or managed, benefit to underserved communities, project sustainability, or other meaningful outcomes. Impact is cumulative and has no overall cap. The Committee should consider both scale and depth.

16. Consistency & Commitment

Sustained Community Health Involvement	Points
Less than 6 months	0
6–11 months	5
1–2 years	10
More than 2 years	20
More than 3 years	30

Prior qualifying service may be considered when adequately documented and does not have to be performed through Medicine Connect.

17. Community Health Final Score

Final Score = Participation & Service Contribution + Leadership & Initiative + Community Health Impact + Consistency & Commitment. There is no maximum overall score. The three eligible applicants with the highest total scores will receive the three \$500 awards in this category.

PART III — Selection, Governance & Administration

18. Scholarship Selection Committee

Medicine Connect will appoint a Scholarship Selection Committee, preferably with at least three members. Members may include healthcare professionals, educators, community leaders, Medicine Connect representatives, or other qualified reviewers. Published criteria must be applied consistently.

19. Conflict of Interest and Recusal

Reviewers must disclose material family, financial, close personal, direct supervisory, or other relationships reasonably capable of affecting impartial judgment. A conflicted reviewer must recuse from scoring or voting on the affected applicant. A Selection Committee member and that member's immediate family are not eligible to receive a Sunrise Scholarship during the year in which the individual serves on the Selection Committee.

20. Verification

Medicine Connect may request reasonable documentation, including organization name, dates, volunteer hours, supervisor/contact information, certificates, letters, program records, published articles, website records, leadership documentation, project results, or other supporting materials. Claims that cannot reasonably be verified may be excluded.

21. Applicants Under Age 18

Applicants under age 18 must obtain parent or legal guardian consent before receiving an award. Scholarship participation/award consent and optional permission for public use of name, photograph, story, or identifying information should be handled separately. Declining optional publicity permission will not negatively affect scoring.

22. Selection of Top Three

After the deadline, eligibility and contributions will be verified, conflicts and recusals documented, scores calculated under the published rules, and the three highest-scoring eligible applicants in each category selected.

23. Tie-Breaking

Knowledge Communication ties: first, higher Article Contribution Points; second, higher Impact Score; third, documented independent Committee review of the overall body of work. Community Health ties: first, higher Community Impact; second, higher Leadership & Initiative; third, higher Consistency & Commitment; fourth, documented independent Committee review.

24. No Guarantee; Integrity

Meeting eligibility requirements does not guarantee an award. Medicine Connect may decline an award if no applicant meets reasonable program standards and may disqualify an applicant for material falsification, plagiarism, fraudulent documentation, or serious rule violations.

25. Records

Medicine Connect should retain the Official Rules, applications, eligibility and verification records, published articles, medical reviews, community activity records, scoring sheets, conflict disclosures, recusal records, rankings, approvals, award letters, and payment records. Medicine Connect should follow its broader record-retention policy; a seven-year internal retention period for the complete scholarship file is recommended unless counsel or the organization's policy requires otherwise.

26. Financial Administration

Awards should be separately identifiable in Medicine Connect accounting records. The organization should review annual Form 990 reporting requirements for grants and assistance to domestic individuals and consult its tax preparer as appropriate.

27. Tax Statement

Medicine Connect does not represent or guarantee that a Sunrise Scholarship award is excluded from a recipient's taxable income. Recipients are responsible for determining applicable federal, state, or local tax consequences and should consult their own tax adviser when appropriate.

28. Program Modification

Medicine Connect may clarify administrative procedures when reasonably necessary to protect fairness, integrity, and proper administration. Material changes to published eligibility or scoring criteria will not be applied retroactively in a manner that unfairly disadvantages participants.

29. Interpretation and Final Authority

Medicine Connect has final authority to administer and interpret these Official Rules, resolve questions or ambiguities, verify eligibility and submitted information, correct clerical, mathematical, scoring, or administrative errors, and make final determinations regarding awards, consistent with these Official Rules and applicable law. Decisions regarding eligibility, scoring, verification, and selection are final, subject to applicable law.

Adopted by the Medicine Connect Board on: _____

Authorized Signature: _____