

## 2026 Hockey and Skate World Houston Scholarship

**Brian Waln**

We are thrilled to announce this year's Houston Hockey and Skate World scholarship recipient! This outstanding student has shown remarkable dedication both inside and outside the classroom. He is actively involved in numerous organizations, including the National Honor Society, Model UN Club, Marching Band, and the World Affairs Council of Greater Houston. Even when he's not playing hockey, he continues to give back to the hockey community as a certified referee and volunteering with the University of Houston Hockey Club. His hard work has earned him prestigious honors, including the AP Scholar Award and the AP Capstone Award. After graduating high school, Brian Waln plans to attend Trinity University and pursue his passion for teaching as a high school history teacher. Please join us in congratulating him on this well-deserved achievement!

### ISHL Scholarship Winners –

As is very simply defined in our name, The Interscholastic Hockey League is not only about playing hockey, it is also about playing hockey in the context, and in concert, with a player's academic endeavors. As every player and every manager responsible for report cards knows, grades are a key focus in our league and set us apart from other hockey leagues in Houston by this higher-level expectation. We are proud of all players in the league that keep up their grades and remain focused on what is important in these formative years of their lives.

Additionally, tonight, we honor and recognize 9 seniors in our league that have demonstrated the highest levels of academic achievement, superior citizenship, visible leadership, and have already embraced volunteerism through active community service. Here are your leaders of tomorrow.

### Scholarship Winners ISHL and Wreaths Across America

**Brady Przespolewski**

A proud student of Oak Ridge High School and member of the National Honor Society, this standout has been a dedicated ISHL player for the past four years. Currently serving as alternate captain for both his Woodlands and

Junior Aeros hockey teams, Brady Przespolewski exemplifies leadership, commitment, and passion for the game. With aspirations to one day work for a professional sports organization, he plans to continue his hockey journey at the collegiate level while pursuing his career goals. Beyond the rink, he is equally committed to giving back by volunteering at the local food bank and representing the ISHL through service with Wreaths Across America. Congratulations to Brady Przespolewski!

Hudson Veroba

We are excited to recognize another outstanding scholarship recipient! A dedicated four-year player in the ISHL, this student-athlete has fully embraced every opportunity the league has to offer, by competing at the JV and Varsity levels, as well as with the LEAD program and the Apollo Select Team. His commitment and consistency earned him his team's Attendance Award three consecutive years. Off the ice, he has challenged himself academically through rigorous STEM and AP coursework, preparing for his next chapter in Canada, where he plans to study engineering and pursue a career solving real-world problems. His passion for giving back is equally impressive. He supports ISHL initiatives, including service with Wreaths Across America, demonstrating a strong commitment to community. Through his teamwork, leadership, and service, Hudson Veroba truly represents the spirit of the ISHL. Congratulations to this well-deserving recipient!

### Scholarship Winners ISHL

Caden Kimmel

A dedicated student-athlete from Woodlands High School, he played three years of ISHL varsity hockey, serving as an alternate captain this season. Since moving from New York in 2016, hockey has been a central part of his life, fueling not only his passion for the game but also his commitment to leadership and teamwork. Caden Kimmel's achievements extend beyond the ice. He has earned numerous honors, including National Merit Finalist and The Woodlands 2025 Student of the Year. This fall, he will attend The University of Texas at Austin, where he plans to continue making a meaningful impact. Caden shared that actively supports his younger sister and volunteers with the Houston Girls Storm Association. His dedication,

character, and drive truly set him apart. Congratulations, we can't wait to see all you accomplish next!

**Evan Shi**

We are proud to recognize an exceptional scholarship recipient with an incredibly impressive résumé! A true leader both on and off the ice, this standout student-athlete has served as captain of his varsity ice hockey team and assistant captain for the Houston Apollos. His passion for the game extends beyond playing. He is a certified referee and has dedicated his time as an assistant coach for younger teams, helping grow the sport and mentor the next generation.

His impact reaches far beyond hockey. As co-founder and COO of the Educators for Impact nonprofit organization, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership and service. He also brought his creativity and vision to life as the director and producer of the Houston Is a Hockey Town documentary. Evan Shi exemplifies dedication and drive. He truly maximizes every opportunity to grow, lead, and make a difference. Congratulations Evan! His hard work and passion set him apart, and we are excited to see what you accomplish next!

**Luke Netherland**

We are proud to recognize another outstanding scholarship recipient! A dedicated multi-sport athlete from College Station, this recipient has spent the past four years competing in the ISHL while also contributing on the football field for his high school. Balancing athletics and academics with determination, he has proven what true perseverance and discipline look like. On the ice, he made his mark not only through his performance and through his leadership, serving as captain of his College Station hockey team. His commitment to his teammates and his drive to lead by example set him apart. Looking ahead, Joseph Netherland plans to attend Texas A&M University to study kinesiology as he works toward his goal of becoming a speech-language pathologist.

Congratulations to this exceptional recipient!

**Keaon Chalton**

We are excited to announce this scholarship recipient! This exceptional student-athlete has built an impressive resume both on and off the ice. He has served as President of his school's National Honor Society, been a dedicated member of the Fair Creek Hockey Team for the past three years.

Keaon Chalton gives back to the community through the US Figure Skating Adaptive Learn to Skate Therapy Program, volunteering over 70 hours to help others learn and grow. His hard work and dedication has been recognized with numerous awards, including AP Scholar with Distinction, CCS Math Department End-of-Year Award, and CCS Temp Department End-of-Year Award.

His passions extend beyond sports and academics, including photography and world travel. After high school, he plans to study Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Please join us in congratulating Keaon on this well-deserved scholarship!

Geoffrey Zuo

We are proud to recognize this scholarship recipient!

He competed on the ice for Ridge Point High, he has been a dedicated member of the ISHL for the past four years. Since the age of six, hockey has played a meaningful role in shaping his discipline, passion, and drive. His academic accomplishments are impressive. He will attend The University of Texas at Austin this fall as part of the prestigious Dean's Scholars Honors Program. Among his many honors, he has been named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program through the Department of Education. A leader both in and out of the classroom, he is the co-founder and has served as Vice President and Treasurer of the Clements High School Aerospace and Rocketry Club. Geoffrey Zuo is deeply committed to his community, volunteering at the Houston Food Bank and dedicating his time to tutoring and coaching elementary students in mathematics. Congratulations Geoffrey! We are excited to see the incredible impact you will continue to make!

Jackson Davis

This student-athlete not only excels on the ice as a member of his high school hockey team, but also demonstrates outstanding leadership and dedication across many areas. He is an active member of the National Honor Society, Jazz Band, and Varsity Orchestra, and has served as an altar server and

Vacation Bible School group leader. He plans to pursue a degree in Environmental Science with the goal of becoming an EPA agent, using his skills and determination to investigate environmental crimes and make a positive impact on the world. Jackson Davis' leadership, determination, and commitment to helping others shine through in everything he does. Please join us in congratulating him on this well-deserved scholarship!