



TRI-STATE SANTA CONSORTIUM (TS2C)

TS2C THOMAS NAST SCHOLARSHIP

2027 Schools for Santa Masterclass

April 23–25, 2027 | Westville, New Jersey

Honoring the Past. Inspiring the Future. Preserving the Heart of Christmas.

About the Scholarship

The Tri-State Santa Consortium (TS2C) is proud to introduce the TS2C Thomas Nast Scholarship, established to encourage, educate, and support the next generation of Clausian performers.

Named in honor of Thomas Nast, the illustrator who lived in Morristown, New Jersey, and whose work helped shape the modern American image of Santa Claus, this scholarship celebrates New Jersey's connection to Christmas history.

We believe Clausian performing is about far more than a costume or an appearance. It is about compassion, humility, patience, generosity, and bringing comfort, hope, and joy to others. Whether portraying Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, an elf, or another Christmas character, the responsibility is the same: creating meaningful experiences and preserving the wonder of the season.

We are not looking for the most expensive costume, the most bookings, or the highest-paid performer. We are looking for someone with the heart of a true Clausian performer.

Scholarship Award

One (1) scholarship will be awarded, valued at \$360. The award includes full registration for the *Schools for Santa Masterclass instructed by National Santa Tim Connaghan*, one copy of the official *Behind the Red Suit* curriculum book, instructional activities, and breakfast and lunch on both instructional days.

Event: April 23–25, 2027 | Santa's Southern Workshop, Westville Fire Department,
23 West Olive Street, Westville, NJ 08093.

Travel, lodging, dinners, transportation, and other personal expenses are the recipient's responsibility. No cash equivalent will be awarded.



Important Application Dates

Applications Open: November 1, 2026

Submission Deadline: February 19, 2027

Recipient Notification: March 1, 2027

Number of Scholarships: One (1)

Submit by email: santatristate@gmail.com

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a beginner Clausian performer or have no more than three years of experience portraying Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, an elf, or another Christmas character at the time of application.
2. Demonstrate sincere commitment to the traditions, values, and responsibilities of Clausian performing.
3. Answer all six application questions honestly and thoughtfully.
4. Supply two qualifying professional or character references, no more than one from the Clausian performing community.
5. Be available for the full April 23–25 program, including Friday’s welcome gathering and both instructional days.
6. Accept responsibility for travel, lodging, dinners, and personal expenses.

Previous formal training is not required. All eligible Christmas character portrayals receive equal consideration. Costume expense, appearance fees, social media following, and popularity are not selection factors.

Scholarship Application Questions

Please answer in your own words. There are no perfect answers; we want to understand your character, motivation, and the person behind the costume.

1 — What Does Being a Clausian Performer Mean to You?

Beyond your costume and appearance, what does being a Clausian performer mean to you? What inspired you to begin this journey? What about portraying your character and sharing the spirit of Christmas speaks to your heart?

2 — The Heart Behind the Character

Describe a specific time you made a meaningful difference in someone’s life through kindness, compassion, generosity, or simply being present. This need not involve performing. What motivated you, and what did you learn?

3 — When Christmas Is Not Merry for Everyone

Some people you meet may face illness, grief, loneliness, financial hardship, disability, or other challenges. How would you approach a struggling child or adult while in character? What would you say or do to help them feel comfortable, valued, and heard? What is your responsibility when comfort matters more than magic?



4 — A Calling, Not a Paycheck

Professional performing has value, but the spirit of Christmas should not be measured by a paycheck. How would you respond if asked to visit a child, family, hospital, or community organization unable to pay? How would you balance professional work with giving back?

5 — Why Should You Receive the TS2C Thomas Nast Scholarship?

Only one recipient will be selected. Why should TS2C invest in you? What experiences, challenges, circumstances, or goals make this award meaningful? What do you hope to learn from National Santa Tim Connaghan, and how will it help you become a better representative of the spirit of Christmas?

6 — Carrying the Legacy Forward

Thomas Nast helped shape an enduring image of Santa Claus, while the Christmas spirit lives through many Clausian characters. What legacy do you hope to leave? How will you use this training to serve your community and preserve Christmas traditions? What do you hope people remember about you?

Professional and Character References

Provide two references who can speak to integrity, compassion, reliability, character, and commitment to others. No more than one may be a Clausian performer. At least one must come from outside the Clausian community. Employers, educators, clergy, nonprofit leaders, volunteer coordinators, and civic leaders are examples. Immediate family and household members are ineligible. TS2C may contact references.

Reference One — Full Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____ Relationship: _____

Years Known: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Clausian performer? Yes / No

Reference Two — Full Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____ Relationship: _____

Years Known: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Clausian performer? Yes / No

Application Submission Instructions

Applications open November 1, 2026. Email the six responses, applicant information, two references, and signed acknowledgment by February 19, 2027 to santatristate@gmail.com

Email Subject: TS2C Thomas Nast Scholarship Application — [Applicant Full Name]

Incomplete or late applications may not be considered.

The selected recipient will be notified March 1, 2027.



Applicant Acknowledgment

By submitting this application, I confirm that I meet the eligibility rules; my answers are truthful and my own; one \$360 scholarship will be awarded for registration and the curriculum book; I am responsible for travel, lodging, dinners, and personal expenses; I will attend the full program if selected; the scholarship is nontransferable and has no cash value; TS2C may contact my references; and selection is at the committee's discretion.

Please fill out the following information and sign below

Full Name: _____ Clausian Character: _____

Performer/Character Name: _____ Years of Experience: _____

City/State: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____