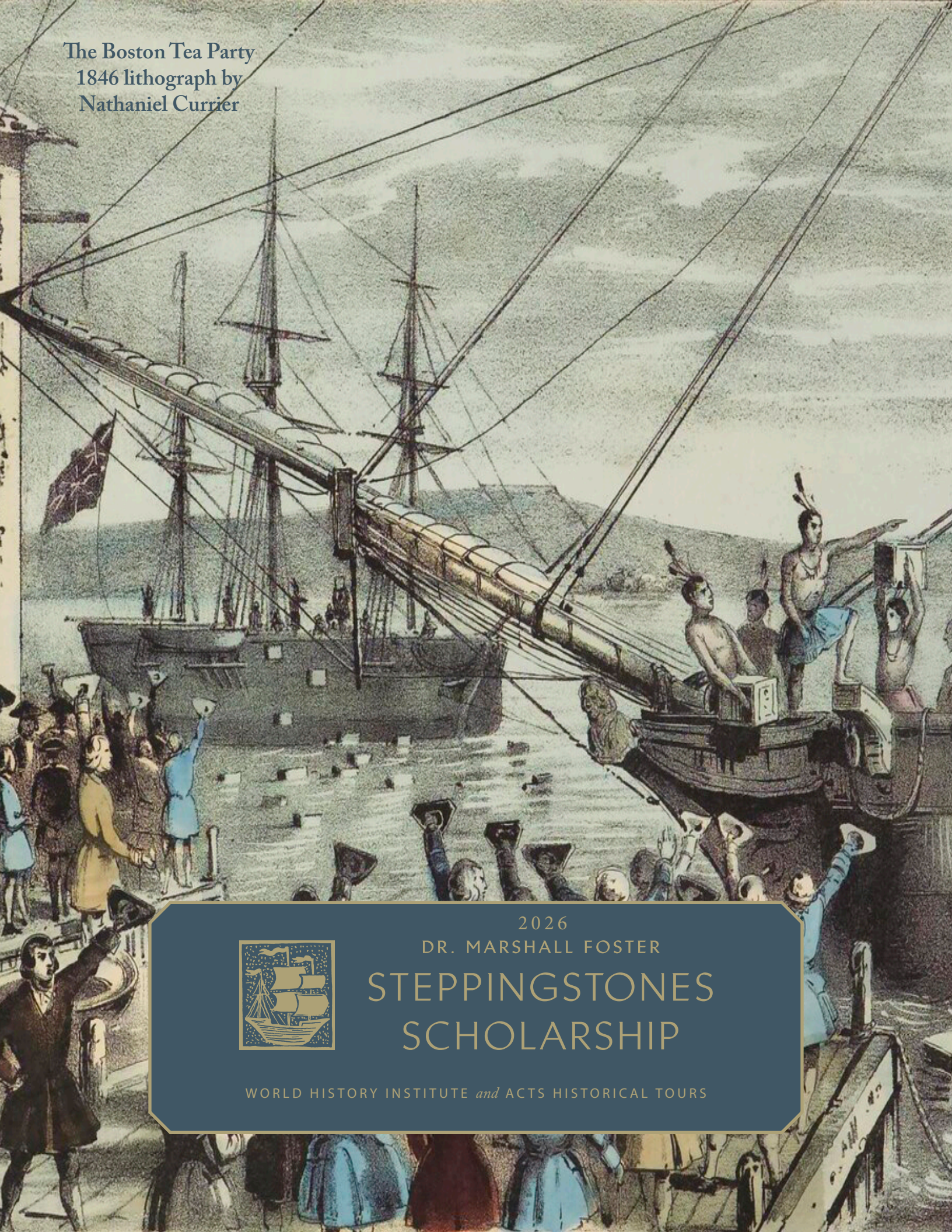


The Boston Tea Party  
1846 lithograph by  
Nathaniel Currier



2026

DR. MARSHALL FOSTER

# STEPPINGSTONES SCHOLARSHIP



WORLD HISTORY INSTITUTE *and* ACTS HISTORICAL TOURS



## CREATED TO BE COURAGEOUS 3RD ANNUAL WHI STEPPINGSTONES SCHOLARSHIP

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The World History Institute

is offering three one-time awards of \$1,500 each for students interested in joining ACTS TOURS 2026 historical events.

Experience history come alive and deepen your understanding of how God has worked in history through ordinary people.

[WWW.WORLDBYINSTITUTE.COM/SCHOLARSHIP](http://WWW.WORLDBYINSTITUTE.COM/SCHOLARSHIP)

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### ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Marshall Foster, a leader in American Christian Tour guide training, understood the transformative power of walking in the footsteps of history. He believed that these journeys could inspire a lifelong passion for history and faith. This year's scholarship theme focuses on whether and when it is appropriate for Christians today to resist authority, and what that resistance should look like in light of biblical principles such as humility, justice, and love.

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#### SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- Attend one of the East Coast 2026 ACTS TOURS student educational programs <https://www.acts-tours.com>
- Open to students entering grades 8 to 12
- Limited to U.S. citizens

#### ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

- Student snapshot (separate PDF)
- 1-2 page essay using the topic and prompts.
- (2) separate PDF's submitted in (1) email

#### EMAIL REQUIREMENTS

- Student snapshot and essay should be attached in TWO separate PDF files so personal information will not be shared on WHI's website, in the event of a published essay.
  - Please indicate tour code, school name or group you are traveling with in your email.
  - Submissions should be emailed by midnight January 18, 2026
  - Include student photo for publication to [scholarship@worldhistoryinstitute.com](mailto:scholarship@worldhistoryinstitute.com)
  - Winners will be announced February 18th, 2026.
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**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 18, 2026**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED: FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

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## WRITING REQUIREMENTS: 2026 STEPPINGSTONES SCHOLARSHIP

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### ESSAY LAYOUT

#### Page 1:

- Write a 1-2 paragraph snapshot of your personal story, hobbies and life experiences.

#### Page 2-3:

- 1-2 page essay discussing Faith and Civil Disobedience: A Biblical and Historical Exploration. Choose either the Boston Tea Party OR the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- Heading should include student's full name, grade and state.
- Double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font.
- Works cited page optional.

### WRITING PROMPTS:

Throughout history, individuals have chosen to disobey civil laws when they conflicted with a higher moral or spiritual law. This practice, known as civil disobedience, raises an important question for Christians: Is civil disobedience ever justified for followers of Christ? In a well-reasoned essay, using the Boston Tea Party OR The Battles of Lexington and Concord to defend your position, approach the topic using the questions below as prompts:

- Discuss either the Boston Tea Party or the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- Is it ever right for a Christian to disobey an authority? Why or why not?
- How can we, as Christians, respond when faced with unjust laws?
- If you were living at that time as a Christian, would you have joined the protest or resisted? Explain your reasoning.

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Submissions must be emailed as two separate PDF documents attached to a single email.

\*\*No google drive or icloud docs please!\*\*

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“When the commands of authority run cross to the commands of God, the commands of God must be obeyed, though the greatest authority under heaven should be displeased and enraged. God never gave the greatest authority in the world any authority to act contrary to His commands. Disobedience to unlawful commands is no disobedience.”

- Thomas Brooks 1608-1680



# CHECKLIST

## 2026 STEPPINGSTONES SCHOLARSHIP

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By submitting an essay for the SteppingStones Scholarship, you are consenting to have your essay, first name, grade, location and photo published on our website and/or social media pages.

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### DID YOU...?

- Include an essay header with your full name, grade and state?
  - Include the tour code, school name, or group in your email?
  - Attach a recent and clear photo of yourself in your email?
  - Write your essay using 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced?
  - Write your essay using the provided prompts?
  - Save your snapshot and essay in 2 separate PDF documents?
  - Submit 1 email with the 2 PDF docs to [scholarship@worldhistoryinstitute.com](mailto:scholarship@worldhistoryinstitute.com)?
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Dear Students,

Your generation will mark a pivotal age in American history. Our freedoms and our national story may either be forgotten and discarded in your lifetime - or retrieved and renewed as you learn and reinforce the ideas handed down to us by our founders. Tyranny and slavery have existed throughout human history. Freedom, by contrast, is rare and precious. In this assignment, you will explore either The Boston Tea Party or the Battles of Lexington and Concord and decide for yourself if/when disobeying civil authority is Biblically justified, and how such resistance can be carried out while safeguarding human rights and honoring the social contract.

We hope, by researching and writing, you will gain a deeper understanding of God's intention regarding authority, obedience, and covenants. We look forward to reading your essays!

Sincerely,

The Steppingstones Scholarship Team

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# Resources and the use of AI Tools

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## Biblical Passages

- Romans 13:1–7; 1 Peter 2:13–17 - civil obedience and its limits
- Acts 4:18–20; 5:27–32 - “We must obey God rather than men”
- Exodus 1:15–21 - Hebrew midwives resist infanticide
- Daniel 3; 6 - refusal of idolatry and unlawful prohibitions on prayer
- Matthew 22:15–22 - rendering to Caesar and to God
- Revelation 13 - critique of beastly, totalizing states
- 1 Samuel 8 - warnings about royal overreach
- 2 Chronicles 26:16–21 - Uzziah’s unlawful usurpation of priestly authority

## Use of AI Tools (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Grammarly, etc)

We recognize that many students use modern writing tools, including AI assistants. These tools can be helpful or brainstorming or checking grammar, but your scholarship submission must reflect your own original thinking, research, and writing voice.

To ensure fairness and uphold academic integrity, please follow these guidelines:

### What is allowed:

AI tools may be used only in limited, supportive ways, such as:

- Brainstorming ideas
- Outlining your structure
- Checking grammar, clarity, or proofreading
- Fact-checking (with your own verification)

These uses should not replace your own reasoning or argumentation.

### What is not allowed using AI to:

- Write whole paragraphs, or your full essay for you
- Generate arguments or historical analysis that you copy verbatim
- Create interpretations that you present as your own
- Provide citations or facts that you do not personally verify

We want to reward courageous thinkers, not just good technology users. AI can assist, but the insight, reasoning, and conviction must come from you.

Good Luck!

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