

H3R PlaySmart — 2026 Cohort Application

Atlanta • Dallas • Miami • Los Angeles

For Applicants Ages 13–18

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

H3R PlaySmart is H3R Story Foundation's gamified financial and digital fluency program for young people in sport. Through a hybrid Learn / Build / Tell curriculum, participants build real skills in financial literacy, digital ownership, and storytelling — while earning a blockchain-backed digital ID and badge as they progress.

Each year, H3R PlaySmart selects a cohort of applicants across four host cities — Atlanta, Dallas, Miami, and Los Angeles — to take part in the program at no cost to the participant or their family. Cohort members receive mentorship and grow together throughout the H3R PlaySmart experience.

BENEFITS

The program includes:

- A 10-week hybrid curriculum built around three phases: Learn, Build, and Tell
- A COPPA-compliant digital ID and 8-level badge system, from Franchise Founder through Legacy Builder
- Hands-on experience with GameCoin, the program's in-platform currency, to practice real financial and ownership concepts
- Access to mentors and guest voices from across sports, media, technology, law, and policy
- Opportunity to become a PlaySmart alumna/alumnus, feeding back into the program as a mentor for future cohorts
- A digital certificate of completion

ELIGIBILITY

Open to applicants ages 13–18, in any of the four host cities — Atlanta, Dallas, Miami, or Los Angeles — regardless of zip code. There is no cost to apply or to participate.

COSTS

H3R PlaySmart is free for participants. There is no application fee or program fee.

THE ESSAY

Every applicant must submit an original essay of no more than 750 words, responding to ONE of the topics below. The essay should reflect the applicant's own voice, ideas, and experience — it is the primary basis on which the review panel selects each city's cohort.

Choose ONE topic:

1. Ownership & Opportunity — What does it mean to you to "own your story"? How would you use financial or digital tools to build ownership over your future in sports, media, or another field you care about?
2. Leadership On and Off the Field — Describe a moment when you showed leadership, on a team or in your community. What did it teach you about the kind of leader you want to become?
3. Women and Girls Changing the Game — Who is a woman or girl in sports (or another field) who has inspired you, and how has she shaped the way you think about your own potential?

4. Telling Your Own Story — Every H3R participant is building their own story. What story do you want to tell about yourself five years from now, and what is the first step toward it?

Essay requirements: 750 words maximum, typed, with the applicant's full name and chosen topic at the top of the page. We seek your original thoughts -- Please do not use AI or other aids to compose your essay.

APPLICATION PROCESS

An independent review panel will read and score all essays and applications and will select the participants for each city's cohort. Applicants will be notified of their status by email. **Email your completed application and essay to apply@h3rstoryfoundation.org.**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please complete all fields below and attach your essay.

Full Legal Name

Preferred Name / Nickname

Date of Birth

Age

Gender (optional)

Cohort City — select one: ☐ Atlanta ☐ Dallas ☐ Miami ☐ Los Angeles

School Name

Grade Level

Home Address

City / State / ZIP

Applicant Email

Applicant Phone

Parent / Guardian Full Name

Parent / Guardian Email

Parent / Guardian Phone

Essay Topic Selected (write topic number/title above)

How did you hear about H3R PlaySmart?

CONSENT & SIGNATURE

I certify that the essay submitted with this application is the applicant's own original work, and that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge. As the parent/guardian of a minor applicant, I consent to their participation in the H3R PlaySmart review process.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____
