

P.O. Box 7456, Olympia, WA 98507
rotaryspssscholarship@gmail.com

2025 Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia Scholarship Application

APPLICATIONS DUE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

The **Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia**, is pleased to continue its longstanding tradition of providing scholarships to excellent South Thurston County high school graduates. This year, we will be awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Rochester, Rainier, Tenino and/or Oakville high schools who are planning to attend: a two- or four-year college or university, trade school, specialty school, technical college, community college, or other accredited* institution of higher learning within the United States.

This year, we will be awarding \$1,000 and \$2,000 individual scholarships. Awards are not limited to one per school, but will be allocated as our Rotary club chooses, based on the quality and completeness of applications. While we place high value on scholastic achievement, we are also seeking to award students who have demonstrated: perseverance, determination and a commitment to service.

The scholarships will be payable directly to the qualified institution of higher learning once Proof of Enrollment is provided. Each scholarship has a sunset provision requiring use within one calendar year of the award date, which is May 9, 2025.

*Accredited colleges in the US meet the standards of the Council for Higher Education Association; specifically, within the Western U.S., through The Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ABOUT ROTARY

The **Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia**, is part of Rotary International – a federation of service clubs located worldwide. The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity; and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise; and in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life; and
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION DUE Friday, MARCH 28, 2025

Please submit your completed application and ALL required supporting documents (including permission signatures) by **Friday, March 28, 2025**. All applications and supporting documents must be submitted in an email from your personal email address* (not your school's email address), with all the forms combined as a single pdf attachment. The email address is: rotaryspsscholarship@gmail.com.

**Exception: your official transcript must be emailed or mailed directly from your high school counselor, or registrar.*

PLEASE NOTE: All information (including financial status and transcripts) you submit as part of your application, will be shared with the members of the scholarship award selection committee.

Recipients **MUST BE ENROLLED** in their institutions in the Fall of 2024 Semester. Recipients will be invited to the May 9, 2025 Rotary Club meeting. This invitation is extended to: faculty and family support. Recipients will be prepared to share a few words with our Rotary Club. Meeting meal for recipients and guests will be provided at no charge.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Scholarships will be awarded based on evaluation of the application and written responses, with the following priority:

- 30% Community Service Activity** (evaluation based on letter(s) of recommendation and community service verification form(s), including explanation of involvement)
- 20% Financial Need** (evaluation based on information provided on completed Financial Information Form)
- 20% Scholastic Achievement** (evaluation based on transcripts, including GPA and strength of schedule)
- 20% Quality of Application Essay** (evaluation based on content, eloquence, organization and grammar)
- 10% Other Factors** (including: reported employment/work experience, sports, clubs, leadership, or other school-related activities).

IMPORTANT DATES

- **January 10, 2025** – Application process opens.
- **March 28, 2025** – Applications and all supporting materials are due, including transcripts and financial statements.
- **April 28, 2025** – Scholarships recipients are notified.
- **May 9, 2025** – Scholarship recipients must attend the May 9, 2025 meeting of the **Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia**, to share their education and career plans with the members of the club. (Exceptions may be granted by the club).
- **August 2025**– Scholarship funds will be sent to student's respective school.

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PERMISSION
Applications due by Friday, March 28, 2025

Name (First, Middle, Last)

Mailing address (please include City, State and Zip code)

Cell phone #: _____ Home phone #: _____

Email address: _____
(must be *your* personal email address, and remain valid for the next two years, for award purposes)

High school

Planned course of study/major

Name of accredited college*

State of college

Student registration # for the targeted institution of higher learning (if already enrolled): _____

As the legal parent/guardian of _____, I hereby give permission for the Rotary Club of South Puget Sound - Olympia, and its designees to verify and share my child's personal and family financial information for the purpose of determining eligibility for this scholarship.

Parent/Guardian name (please print)

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

*Accredited colleges in the US meet the standards of the Council for Higher Education Association; specifically, within the Western U.S., through The Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Vocation and Trade schools will qualify for this scholarship.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
(Applications with incomplete forms will not be reviewed)

1. Official Transcript to be emailed directly from your high school counselor or registrar to rotaryspssscholarship@gmail.com.

2. Completed Community Service Verification Form(s) (included in this packet) for each organization for which you completed service hours (min. 50 hours required during high school career)
3. Letters of Recommendation (preferably from a non-relative, member of organization where you completed service hours)
4. Completed Financial Information Form (included in this packet)
5. Application Essay: A written description of your achievements (in 500 words or less), including experience in community service, leadership, and sports and/or clubs; as well as academic or life challenges, and any work history. Please also describe how your commitment to community service has influenced your plans for future. Also include your intended course of study, school/college, choice, career goals; and how receiving this scholarship would benefit you.

The essay will be scored by the Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia Scholarship Committee, using a rubric with the following criteria:

1. Focus on Topic (awareness of audience is clear and maintained throughout);
2. Organization (logical order, coherence and unity);
3. Quality of thought (demonstration of critical thinking that is clear, insightful, in depth, and relevant to the topic);
4. Use of language (uses language that engages the reader and expresses complex ideas clearly);
5. Mechanics and usage (without errors in spelling, grammar, paragraphing and format).

The essay must include a header with the applicant's last name, first name, middle initial, and high school. All application materials must be submitted electronically to rotaryspssscholarship@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY SERVICE VERIFICATION FORM

(must be completed and signed by supervisor/leader of organization where you served.)

_____ (name of student) has completed _____ hours of community service for _____ (name of organization), during their high school career, including performing the following tasks/services:

Event Name	Location	Hours Completed	Signature of Lead

Printed name of supervisor/leader

Date

You may use this form for multiple organizations and can include all service over your entire high school experience (9th – 12th grades).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM

Must be completed for application to be considered. Estimations are acceptable.
Utilize your desired college/institution website to estimate costs.

Please tell us how many scholarships you have applied for, **in addition** to this one:

Do you have siblings? (circle one): YES NO

If you circled YES, please tell us how many currently reside with you:

Please indicate how many siblings (if any) are also attending institutions of higher learning at this time and receiving financial assistance from your family (cash, loans, etc.):

Please provide the following estimated costs for attending your chosen institution of higher learning:

Tuition	\$
Books	\$
Other Fees	\$
Housing (only include out-of-pocket expenses if living at home)	\$
Other Expenses	\$
TOTAL	\$

Please provide the amount of financial support you anticipate receiving from sources other than this scholarship. Estimates are acceptable. Do not leave this section blank. Write \$0.00 if you do not have additional financial support.

Grants	\$
Scholarships	\$
Family	\$
Financial Aid/Student Loans	\$
Employment	\$
Other	\$
TOTAL	\$

The **Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia**, reserves the right to verify financial information provided above.

PHOTO RELEASE FORM

IMPORTANT

If you are selected to receive a scholarship award, we would like to recognize your accomplishment by including your name and photo on our Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia Social Media and Websites.

Please include this signed authorization form **and** a photo of yourself with your completed application. Photos should be in a jpeg format.

I authorize Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia, to publish the included photo of myself in a future Rotary Club of South Puget Sound – Olympia, social media and/or website post.

Applicants printed name

Date

Parent/Guardian signature (if under 18)

Date