



The Rotary Club of Des Moines 2026 Local Scholarship Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Rotary Club of Des Moines will be awarding six \$8,000 post-secondary education scholarships (four years @ \$2,000 per year) to current seniors in the Des Moines Public school system. These scholarships are valid for up to 6 years from the recipient's first enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution. Additionally, four finalists from each of the six high schools will be awarded a \$100 Target gift card. These gift cards will be given to the finalists by a lead member of the Rotary Club at the time of the scholarship interviews.

The completed application, essay and all requested documentation must be received by Friday, **March 6, 2026.**

Recipients will be selected by the Local Scholarship Committee on the basis of community service, ability and achievement, and financial need. All participants will be notified in writing of the results of the Committee's decision. Recipients will be honored at the April 23, 2026 RCDM Luncheon from noon to 1 p.m.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1. Demonstrated financial need. We ask that you only apply if these funds are truly needed. This scholarship is intended to assist families who demonstrate a financial need, and we encourage those who fall in this category to apply. Please be assured that all information provided herein will be kept in the strictest confidence by The Rotary Club of Des Moines.
2. Ability to succeed.
3. School & Civic Activities/Employment
4. A current senior in the Des Moines public school system.
5. Be pursuing post-high-school education in the 2026-27 school year (both fall and spring semester). The school you are planning to attend can be a public or private university, college, graduate or law school, or 2- or 4-year community or technical college. All schools must be accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.
6. Note: children and grandchildren of The Rotary Club of Des Moines members are ineligible to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete and print the application form beginning on the next page and submit to your guidance counselor with your essay and required documentation. Finalists will be notified by their guidance counselor and be interviewed in person by the Local Scholarship Committee. *** APPLICATIONS MUST BE LEGIBLE *** We encourage you to use this fillable .pdf form.

Application materials will not be returned and become the property of The Rotary Club of Des Moines.

ESSAY GUIDELINES

Submit a 500-word typed essay that answers the questions:

What are your Education, Occupation and Life goals? How will a college education help you achieve them?

Your essay should not exceed 500 words or one side of an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. Handwritten essays will not be considered. Spelling and grammar will be considered.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

1. High school transcript
2. Personal resume
3. Senior class picture

RECOMMENDATION

U.S. citizens and permanent residents should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov



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APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

(Permanent) Address – please include zip code:

Cell Phone Number:

Home Phone Number:

Email Address:

Weighted
GPA:

Unweighted
GPA:

ACT Score:

SAT Score:

DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY MAKE-UP.

HOW DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY PLAN TO PAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION?

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Section 1

Indicate your estimates of expenses for the 2026-2027 school year in the following categories:	Tuition	_____
	Room & Board	_____
	Books	_____
	Other	_____
	Total	_____
Do you plan to work this summer? If yes, where?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Do you plan to work during the school year? Where?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	

FINANCIAL INFORMATION		Section 2		<i>Note that income option below is pre-checked by default. Simply click on the correct button to change as needed.</i>	
Indicate your best knowledge for the current school year in the following categories:	Father's Occupation	_____			
	Mother's Occupation	_____			
	Approx. Annual Household Income	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$60,000	over \$60,000	
	Number of dependent children in the household	_____			

FINANCIAL INFORMATION		Section 3		<i>Note that the option buttons below are pre-checked by default. Simply click on the correct button to change.</i>	
Are there any funds being provided to you by other sources (relatives, college savings account such as a 529 plan, employer, etc.)	Source 1: \$	_____			
	Source 2: \$	_____			
	Source 3: \$	_____			
List other scholarships you have applied for and/or received.	Scholarship Name	_____			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only Applied or <input type="checkbox"/> Received amount\$	_____			
	Scholarship Name	_____			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only Applied or <input type="checkbox"/> Received amount\$	_____			
	Scholarship Name	_____			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only Applied or <input type="checkbox"/> Received amount\$	_____			
	Scholarship Name	_____			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only Applied or <input type="checkbox"/> Received amount\$	_____			
Have you completed the FAFSA application?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no				

Please explain any additional factors which you feel The Rotary Club of Des Moines should be aware of in order to help us make a decision regarding your request (i.e. any temporary financial difficulties, family expenses, major illnesses, etc.).

I affirm that the information I have provided on this application is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature

Date



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SCHOOLS APPLIED TO/ACCEPTED BY:

PLEASE LIST AFTER SCHOOL, WEEKEND AND SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE.

PLEASE LIST SCHOOL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES.

YOUR GOALS: (State briefly here and then elaborate in your essay.)

Education:

Occupation:

Life:
