



2026 Make a Difference Scholarships

Sponsored by

The Park Ridge Rotary Foundation

P.O. Box 130 - Park Ridge, IL 60068

January 7th, 2026

The Park Ridge Rotary Foundation is inviting high school seniors who either live in Park Ridge or attend high school in Park Ridge to apply for our Make a Difference Scholarship. This is the 20th year the Foundation has awarded the scholarships to students who have graduated from high school and will be matriculating at a college or trade school in the fall of 2026. Five scholarships were awarded in 2025 totaling \$5,000 (past winners attended Maine East, Notre Dame, Maine South, Loyola and Resurrection to name a few). We anticipate a similar amount this year.

Applicants will be evaluated on Rotary's motto "service above self" experience, leadership endeavors, scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, out-of-school jobs, responsibilities in the home, recommendation letters, financial outlook, and personal statements based on questions in the application.

Members of the Scholarship Committee will be very interested in the student's awareness of Rotary and its involvement within our community and the world.

Applications with a short essay must be emailed by 12:00pm on March 18, 2026. Finalists will be contacted for a short Zoom interview in a timely fashion. Winners will be announced by mid-April and an award lunch will be held at Harp & Fiddle in May.

You are provided a student application in conjunction with this letter. We look forward to hearing from you for the Make a Difference Scholarship 2026.

If you have questions, you can email me at pszeliski@gmail.com. To reach me by phone (773) 458-8052.

Sincerely,

Pawel Szeliski

Chair, Scholarship Committee