



## 2026 Scholarship Application Incoming College Freshman

The Rotary Club of Solvang is presently welcoming applications for our annual scholarship awards. We offer monetary scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### 1. Solvang Rotary Club Community Service Scholarship

The members of the Solvang Rotary Club perform community service, in both a local and international capacity, and is an important part of a Rotarian's service. This scholarship recognizes students that have performed "unpaid" community service (hence, paid work and athletic endeavors do not constitute community service).

#### 2. Solvang Rotary Consistent Academic Excellence

This scholarship rewards consistent academic excellence grade 9 – 12. This scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate consistent academic excellence and leadership while maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA. Eligible applicants show active involvement in school-based activities such as **academic leadership**, **student government**, music, athletics, and visual or performing arts. The award honors well-rounded students who balance strong scholastic achievement with leadership, creativity, and personal development.

#### 3. Solvang Rotary Club Academic Improvement Scholarship

Many scholarships reward consistent academic excellence. This scholarship rewards academic improvement in grades 9 - 12. The ideal candidate for this scholarship will show academic improvement through an increase in grade point average and/or an increase in difficulty of classes over the past three years. The committee will be looking for a minimum increase in GPA of at least 1 point; for example, going from a 2.0 to a 3.0+.

#### 4. Solvang Rotary Club Vocational Trade Scholarship (separate application)

This scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a two-year career-focused education at a two-year college or technical school.

Scholarship applying for (please select one):

Community Service  Academic Improvement  Academic Excellence  Vocational

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for any of these scholarships, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- a. Must be currently attending or planning to attend a community college or 4-year university in the fall of the current year.
- b. Meet the scholarship description.
- c. Applicants must be one of the following:
  - i. Currently, is a Solvang or Santa Ynez Valley resident and/or has attended a high school in the Santa Ynez Valley for at least two years.
  - ii. At least one of the applicant's parents live in the Santa Ynez Valley (please provide a utility bill).

## APPLICATIONS

A complete application includes:

1. Scholarship application form.
2. Essay Requirement  
Submit an essay describing your qualifications, personal passions, and future educational or career goals as they relate to this scholarship. Applicants are encouraged to explain how this scholarship supports their chosen pathway. **Additional consideration will be given to students who include a specific example of how they applied Rotary's Four-Way Test or Guiding Principles during their high school experience:** (min 200 words)
  - Is it the truth?
  - Is it fair to all concerned?
  - Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
  - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
3. A copy of your transcript.
4. If you are applying for the Community Service Scholarship, please provide a printout of your community service hours. Community service does not include paid work nor competing on a sports team.
5. If you are applying for the Community Service Scholarship, also include a letter of reference from a non-related adult (examples: mentor, scout leader, minister, athletic coach) The letter should include a description of the community service performed and the duration.

## DEADLINES

6 March 2026: All applications must be postmarked by this date.

6 April 2026: All final scholarship candidates interviews by the scholarship committee will be completed.

17 April 2026: Final decisions for scholarship awardees will be made.

Prior to the Fall: Scholarship awardees must attend a Solvang Rotary Club meeting prior to the fall semester, show proof of enrollment and then will receive their scholarship money. Checks will be written directly to the educational institutio

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Currently a Santa Ynez Valley resident.

Attended a high school in the Santa Ynez Valley for at least 2 years.

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

At least one parent/guardian currently resides in the Santa Ynez Valley (utility bill attached).

## PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name(s) of Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Dependents in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR FUTURE PLANS

I am planning \_\_\_\_\_ years of advanced study.

I am attending, have been accepted and will attend OR

I have applied to and am waiting to hear from the following schools:

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Certificate Programs: \_\_\_\_\_



***By signing below, I certify that the above information is correct.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Click here, then use Fill & Sign to add your signature.*

**Applications must be postmarked or received via email by March 6th, 2026.**

*Please do not forget your supporting paperwork.*

**Rotary Club of Solvang**  
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