



2026
High School
Scholarship Award Guidelines
Approved by Madison Rotary Board of Directors

Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self"

Madison Rotary is pleased to offer six scholarship awards to graduating seniors who embody Rotary's motto, "*Service Above Self.*" Six scholarships of \$1,500 will be awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to volunteerism, community service, and leadership through their activities and actions.

Examples of volunteer service, activities and actions may include but not limited to participation in a service club like Interact or Key Club, participating in organized mission trips, volunteering to help others, volunteering at a community organization like the YMCA, food bank, hospital, scouting, Rotary Christmas Tree Lot, Bottle Hill Day, raising money to benefit others, peer mentor, tutoring, etc.

Eligible service activities may include, but are not limited to, participation in service clubs such as Interact or Key Club, engagement in organized mission trips, volunteer efforts benefiting individuals or organizations, and service at community-based entities such as the YMCA, food banks, hospitals, scouting programs, the Rotary Christmas tree lot, and Bottle Hill Day. Additional qualifying activities include fundraising to support others, peer mentoring, tutoring, and other forms of meaningful volunteerism.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- Be a graduating senior residing in Madison.
- Attend an accredited high school (does not have to be Madison High School).
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to volunteerism and community service.

Financial need is *not* a factor in the selection process.

Scholarship Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded primarily based on the applicant's volunteer efforts that exemplify Rotary's core value of "*Service Above Self.*" Three of the six scholarships will be designated for students who meet one of the following criteria:

- Plan to attend a business, vocational, or technical school.
- Have actively participated in Madison Rotary programs or activities (e.g., Interact Club, Christmas Tree Lot, Bottle Hill Day, Shred-It events, library clean-up, etc.).
- Plan to pursue a course of study in the performing arts.

If there are insufficient applicants who meet the above criteria, scholarship awards will be reassigned accordingly.

Application Process

Applicants must complete an online application detailing their volunteerism and community service experiences, both within and/or outside of school. Submissions should be comprehensive and include specific descriptions of activities, roles, and responsibilities. If the applicant has held a leadership position within any service activity, this information should be clearly stated.

The deadline for application submission is **Sunday, April 27, 2026.**

Selection Process

The selection process aims to identify six applicants whose volunteer efforts have positively impacted individuals and communities while also fostering the applicant's personal growth and understanding of service.

Applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee and ranked on a scale of 1 to 5. The highest-ranking applicants will be invited for a personal interview during the week of May 11, 2026, to be conducted at Madison High School's Guidance Department.

Following the interview process:

Six students will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Scholarship recipients will be formally recognized at Madison High School Awards Night. The official scholarship checks will be distributed at a Madison Rotary meeting on Thursday, June 04, 2026, at 7:30 AM, held at the Madison YMCA. Scholarship recipients and their parents will be invited to attend this event.

Scholarship Selection Committee

The Scholarship Selection Committee will consist of 8 to 10 members of Madison Rotary, including: The Scholarship Committee Chair, Madison Rotary President, Youth Service Committee member and additional Rotary members interested in participating in the selection process. Any committee member with a direct personal connection to an applicant will be asked to recuse themselves from the selection process to ensure fairness and impartiality.

For inquiries regarding the scholarship application process, please contact Barry Kroll, Scholarship Chair at scholarship@madisonrotarynj.org

Email Scholarship/Award Application to:

Barry Kroll, Scholarship Chair, at scholarship@madisonrotarynj.org

Email attachment must be in either doc, docx or pdf format.

Deadline for Submission:

DEADLINE APRIL 27, 2026



Madison Rotary 2026 Scholarship Award Application Calendar

Date	Activity	Responsible
January	Madison Rotary reviews scholarship program and philosophy for the current year	Barry Kroll Rotary Board
February	Communicate scholarship program to Madison High School including calendar, selection process, interview calendar, website link	Barry Kroll
March	Identify/Select scholarship selection committee members	Barry Kroll
February 6, 2026	1 st Press release to local papers, Social Media Posting, Madison Rotary Website update	Doug Willis Amul Modhera Barry Kroll
March 23, 2026	2 nd Press release to local papers, Social Media Posting, Madison Rotary Website update	Doug Willis Amul Modhera Barry Kroll
Mar 1 – Apr 27	Scholarship application period	Student Applicants
April 27, 2026	Deadline for scholarship applications	Student Applicants
April 28 – May 2	Application evaluation/ranking by committee members	Scholarship Selection Committee
Week of May 4th	Communicate to students' status of their application, accepted for interview, rejected, etc.	Barry Kroll
Week of May 4th	Communicate to MHS status of scholarship application process, secure help with interview schedule	Barry Kroll
Week of May 4th	Set up interview schedule - communicate/schedule with students	Barry Kroll and MHS Guidance Department

May 12, 2026	Student Interviews at MHS	Scholarship Selection Committee
May 13, 2026	Notify students of the outcome of their interview.	Barry Kroll
May 13, 2026	Notify various High Schools of which students will be awarded scholarships	Barry Kroll
TBD	Madison Rotary President or President Elect attends MHS Scholarship Awards presentation to present Rotary scholarships	Jim Fraser – Kyle Becker
June 4, 2026	Students attend meeting of Madison Rotary (7:30 am) to introduce themselves and receive scholarship award checks	Barry Kroll Jim Fraser