



Karl J. Schwartz Rotary Award Fund Scholarship Program

THE PROGRAM

Bristol Rotary Scholarship Fund, Inc. has established a scholarship program to assist high school seniors from select Connecticut towns who plan to pursue full-time postsecondary study at an accredited four-year institution of the student's choice.

This scholarship program is administered by Scholarship America®, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship, tuition assistance and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability or national origin.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be graduating high school seniors who reside and attend public or private high schools in one of the following towns in Connecticut: Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, or Terryville.
- Plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited four-year college or university for the entire upcoming academic year.
- Submit an essay describing their personal experiences as they relate to the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self" (essay will be one page, 8 ½ " x 11", 12 point font).

AWARDS

Up to nine (9) awards will be granted. If selected as a recipient, the student will receive an initial award of \$7,500. Awards may be renewed for up to three (3) additional years or until a bachelor's degree is earned, whichever occurs first. Renewal awards of up to \$7,500 per year are subject to the performance of the Karl J. Schwartz Rotary award fund. Renewal awards are also contingent on the student maintaining a 3.0 GPA (on a scale of 4.0) and continuing to demonstrate financial need. Renewal students will be required to submit financial information to Scholarship America each year. If financial need is not demonstrated in subsequent years, the award will be forfeited.

Awards are for undergraduate study only.

APPLICATION

Interested students must complete the application and mail it along with a current, complete transcript of grades to Scholarship America postmarked no later than **March 1**. Grade reports are not acceptable. Online transcripts must display student name, school name, grade and credit hours earned for each course, and term in which each course was taken. Applicants will receive acknowledgment of receipt of their application. If an acknowledgment email is not received within three weeks, applicants may call Scholarship America to verify that the application has been received.

Applicants are responsible for gathering and submitting all necessary information. Instructions for completing the Financial Data section of the application are included. Applications are evaluated on the information supplied; therefore, answer all questions as completely as possible. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. All information received is considered confidential and is reviewed only by Scholarship America.

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, statement of goals and aspirations, unusual personal or family circumstances, an outside appraisal, an essay, and financial need. Recipients will be selected from a pool of qualified applicants with consideration given to those who demonstrate the greatest financial need.

Selection of recipients is made by Scholarship America. In no instance does any officer or board member of Bristol Rotary Scholarship Fund, Inc. play a part in the selection. All applicants agree to accept the decision as final.

Applicants will be notified in late April. Not all applicants to the program will be selected as recipients.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship America processes scholarship payments on behalf of Bristol Rotary Scholarship Fund, Inc. Payments are made in equal installments on August 1 and December 15. Checks are mailed to each recipient's home address and are made payable to the school for the student.

OBLIGATIONS

Recipients have no obligation to Bristol Rotary Scholarship Fund, Inc. They are, however, required to notify Scholarship America of any changes in address, school enrollment, or other relevant information and to send a complete transcript when requested.

REVISIONS

Bristol Rotary Scholarship Fund, Inc. reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be addressed to:

Karl J. Schwartz Rotary Award Fund Scholarship Program
Scholarship America
One Scholarship Way
Saint Peter, MN 56082

Telephone: (507) 931-1682

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL DATA SECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Financial Data section of the application should be completed by the parent or guardian of the applicant. Information should be from a completed tax return or based on estimated information to be filed with the IRS.

1. **State of Residence** is the state where the parents reside and pay state income tax.
2. **Adjusted Gross Income** can be found on IRS FORM 1040 and is gross income reduced by specific adjustments allowed by law.
3. **Total Federal Tax Paid** includes the total amount of **federal** income tax to be paid as reported on IRS FORM 1040. This is **not** the amount withheld from employee's paychecks. (The amount withheld should be adjusted by any refund or additional taxes due.) Do **not** report state income tax.
4. **Total Income** of parent(s) should be reported individually. Provide information for both natural parents, when possible. **If the student resides with only one parent**, financial information **must** be received from the parent who claims the child as a dependent for tax purposes. If a parent has remarried, the spouse's information is required if the spouse is a legal guardian of the student, or claims the student as a dependent, or the student is included in the spouse's benefit plan. **If necessary, two Financial Data sections may be submitted by the student.** A copy of the Financial Data section may be made in order for one to be completed by each parent.
5. **Untaxed Income and Benefits** include any other income or benefits not included in the adjusted gross income figure. Do not include untaxed contributions to retirement plans.
6. **Medical and Dental Expenses** include only those expenses not paid by insurance. Do not include premium payments.
7. **Total Cash, Checking, Savings, Cash Value of Stocks, etc.**, includes liquid assets that can be used for educational expenses. **Do not include** IRA, 401k, or other retirement plan funds.
8. **Total number of family members** living in the household and primarily supported by the reported income may include:
 - the applicant
 - the applicant's parents
 - other children living in the household
 - dependent college students living away from home
 - other people who live in the household and receive more than half of their support from the reported income
9. **Marital status** is the current status of the person from whom the financial information is submitted.
10. **Of the total number of family members on line 8, number of students attending college** includes family members attending a two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school at least half-time. Include the applicant in this number. Do not include parents.

NOTE: Any exceptions to providing financial information as instructed above must be submitted to Scholarship America in writing.