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2025 Breckenridge Mountain Rotary Scholarship

for Summit County High School Seniors

**Scholarship Overview**

The **Breckenridge Mountain Rotary Club** is pleased to offer TWO (2) $2500 scholarship opportunities to deserving students from Summit County. This scholarship is designed to recognize students who demonstrate a strong commitment to **education**, **protecting the environment**, and **serving their community** through the Rotary Club's core value of **"Service Above Self."** The scholarship will be awarded to students who exemplify these values through their actions, leadership, and dedication.

**Important Dates**

* **Application Launch Date**: January 2025
* **Application Deadline**: March 15, 2025 (by 11:59 PM MST)
* **Winners Announced**: April 2, 2025

**Eligibility Criteria**

* Must be a Summit County, CO resident and/or must be a current senior at a High School in Summit County, CO, graduating in the 2024-2025 school year.
* Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
* Must demonstrate involvement in community service, leadership, and/or environmental protection efforts.
* Must plan to attend a post-secondary institution (college, vocational school, or other educational programs).

**Application Instructions**To apply, students should submit the following documents:

1. **Completed Application Form** (available online in a fillable PDF form – MORE DETAILS & LINK NEEDED)
2. **Personal Essay and Responses –** See a list of the application questions and scoring matrix below.
3. **Video Submission** (optional but encouraged) – See details below.
4. **TWO (2) Letters of Recommendation**:  
   - ONE letter must be from a school official (teacher, coach, counselor, etc.)   
   - ONE letter must be from a community member or organization (Church, non-profit volunteer group, mentor, outside-of-school club, etc.)  
   *NEITHER letter of recommendation may come from a family member.*
5. **Complete all of the above requirements and email your completed information to:** [BreckRotaryScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:BreckRotaryScholarship@gmail.com) – you will receive a confirmation email after we receive your information.

**APPLICATION *EXAMPLE***

Please note the application must be completed and submitted on the official application template which can be found here - (Insert Link). The following is simply a list of the information you will need to complete the application, along with the application questions.

*It is preferred to have the application submitted in English however, applications may be submitted in Spanish. Google Translate will be used to convert the application to English for our non-Spanish-speaking judges.*

**Full Name:**

**Physical Address:**

**Mailing Address**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**High School Name and Graduation Year:**

**What is your current GPA?**

**What are your post-secondary education plans? Please list the schools you have applied to or plan to apply to and your intended field of study.**

**Questions - Part 1 (each question REQUIRED)**Provide a personal response to each of the following six (6) questions. Each of these questions are required to be completed for your application to be considered. *Please note – questions 1-5 are limited to 1000 characters and question 6 is limited to 2000 characters.*

1. What does "service above self" mean to you, and how have you applied this principle in your life?
2. Describe a community service project or initiative you have led or participated in. What was your role, and what impact did it have on our community?
3. What qualities do you think are important in a leader, and how have you demonstrated those qualities in your own life?
4. Why is education important to you, and how do you plan to use your education to make a positive impact on our community or the world?
5. Describe a time when you faced a challenge or setback. How did you overcome it, and what did you learn from the experience?
6. Is there anything else you would like to share that highlights your commitment to education, the environment, leadership and community service?

**Questions - Part 2 (SELECT two (2) questions)**Provide a personal response on ANY two (2) of the following questions which you feel you most likely relate to and/or can provide the best response. **ONLY select two questions to complete.** Completing more than two questions will disqualify you from being considered for the scholarship. Each of these questions are required to be completed for your application to be considered. *Please note – each question is limited to 1000 characters.*

1. Describe your academic achievements and how they reflect your commitment to education.
2. Why is education important to you, and how has it shaped your goals and future?
3. What role has environmental protection played in your life, and how have you demonstrated your commitment to it?
4. How do you balance community service with academic responsibilities and personal life?
5. What have you learned from your volunteer work or community service experiences?
6. Have you held any leadership positions in school, sports, or community organizations? If so, please provide details.
7. How do you envision making a positive impact in your community after your education?
8. Describe a specific project or initiative you've been involved in that focused on improving the local community. What was your role, and what was the outcome?
9. How do you plan to further your education after high school? What specific goals do you have for your future academic and career journey?

**Video Submission Guidelines**

In addition to the written application, you are encouraged to submit a creative **video** to showcase how you have demonstrated your commitment to education, protecting the environment, developing your leadership skills and/or serving your community. Be authentic and show your passion for these topics. The video should be no longer than 2 minutes in length and focused on one of the following areas:

**1. Personal Statement Video -** Tell us why you are passionate about education, community service, and environmental sustainability and how these align with Rotary’s mission of 'Service Above Self'?"

**2. Service Project Highlight Reel -** Showcase a recent service project or community initiative you were involved in. Highlight your role, the impact of the project, and how it reflects on leadership and community development.

**3. Sustainability Advocacy Video –** Explain or showcase a local environmental issue or sustainability challenge you care about. How would you address this issue, and why does it matter to you?

**4. Vision for the Future Video -** Share your vision for the future of Summit County. How do you plan to continue serving your community? What are your long-term goals and how do they align with improving our community?

**5. Rotary Values in Action Challenge –** Show how you live out the value of 'Service Above Self' in your daily life. Whether through school activities, personal projects, or community service, demonstrate how you embody these principles.

**Video Submission Guidelines**

* **Video Production**: The video MUST be written, recorded, and produced by you. Friends and family may assist in helping to shoot the video or be featured in the video. Creating the video should not cost you any money and should not look like a blockbuster production.
* **Format**: Videos should be submitted in MP4 or similar formats. TikTok videos or Instagram reels are acceptable if they fit within the time constraints.
* **Length**: Videos should be no longer than 2 minutes.
* **File Size**: Keep the file size manageable (under 25 MB) for easy upload.
* **Content**: Ensure the video content is respectful, appropriate, and aligns with Rotary’s values of service, leadership, and integrity.
* **Upload Method**: All videos should be submitted via a link (YouTube, Google Drive, etc.,) with privacy set to "public”.

**Addressing Financial Need**

While the Breckenridge Mountain Rotary Club Scholarship is primarily based on community service, environmental commitment, leadership and education, financial need may also be considered. In your application, you may consider including the following:

* **Explanation of Financial Need** – If relevant, describe your family’s financial situation and how it affects your ability to pursue higher education.
* **Cost of Education** – If you have received any estimates of tuition, fees, or other expenses for your intended post-secondary institution, you may include them in your application.
* **Other Scholarships or Financial Aid** – Please list any other scholarships, grants, or financial aid you have applied for or received. This will help the judges understand your overall financial picture.

**Judging Matrix**

Each question of the application will be scored based on the merit of the information provided. Scoring will be as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Application WITHOUT video | Application WITH Video |
| Application Questions | 10 points each | 10 points each |
| Video | N/A | 20 points each |
| Judge’s Discretionary Points | Up to 5 points | Up to 5 points |
| TOTAL Possible Points | 85 | 105 |

Multiple Judges will review and score each application. The judges’ scores will be averaged together and converted to a percentage of the total points based on an application with OR without a video.

**Tips for Completing a Great Application**

1. **Be Clear and Specific in Your Responses**
   * When answering each question, be as detailed as possible. Use real-life examples to demonstrate how you’ve embodied the values of service, education, and community involvement. The more specific and clear you are, the better the selection committee will be able to understand your experiences and potential.
2. **Show Passion for Service Above Self**
   * Rotary values "Service Above Self." This means prioritizing the needs of others and making a positive impact in your community. Be sure to reflect on how you’ve demonstrated this in your own life, whether through volunteering, leadership roles, or projects that serve others.
3. **Highlight Your Long-Term Goals**
   * Rotary is looking for students who not only excel academically but also have a clear vision for their future. When discussing your educational and career goals, make sure to connect them to your desire to make a positive change in your community and beyond.
4. **Proofread and Revise Your Application**
   * A well-written application speaks volumes about your attention to detail and professionalism. Take the time to proofread your responses, check for spelling and grammar errors, and ensure your ideas flow logically. Ask a trusted teacher, parent, or friend to review your application before submitting it.
5. **Be Honest and Authentic**
   * The selection committee wants to know who you truly are and what drives you. Don’t try to write what you think they want to hear—write from the heart and be authentic. Share your true passions and experiences, and let your individuality shine through.

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. **Can I submit my application late?**  
   No, applications must be submitted by the deadline. Late applications will not be considered.
2. **How are the applications evaluated?**  
   Applications are evaluated based on the quality of your responses to the essay and short answer questions, the strength of your letters of recommendation, and your alignment with the values of Rotary, including service, education, leadership and community development.
3. **Do I need to be involved in Rotary International to apply?**  
   No, you do not need to be a member of Rotary to apply. However, Rotary values individuals who demonstrate leadership and service in their communities.
4. **What if I don’t have much community service experience?**  
   Rotary values service in all its forms. If you don’t have extensive community service experience, focus on the impact you’ve made, no matter how small, and your willingness to continue serving in the future.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions about the scholarship or the application process, please feel free to contact us:

* **Email:** BreckRotaryScholarship@gmail.com
* **Phone:** 970.401.1646 (call or text) – if not available, leave Seth a voicemail and he will return your call. Please allow at least one day for a response – so don’t wait until the last minute☺

We look forward to receiving your application and learning about how you plan to make a positive impact in the community and the world!