

2026-27 Scholarship Application Guidelines – Due April 15

\$6,000 - \$6,500 Scholarships (paid over 4 years)

Grant of Scholarships. The Rotary Club of East Wichita Foundation has available a limited number of scholarship grants for deserving Sedgwick County high school graduates who plan on attending a Kansas college, university or technical school. These incoming freshmen will receive monies to help defray the cost of tuition, books, fees or room and board at a Kansas educational institution attended by the scholarship recipient. One scholarship of \$1,500 will be granted for the 2026-2027 school year and renewable up to a total of eight semesters, resulting in a \$6,000 maximum scholarship. Payment of each semester's installment will be contingent upon satisfactory completion of the preceding semester in compliance with the qualifications listed in section 8.

A special one-year scholarship, the George Fahnstock Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$2000 (payable \$1000 each semester) may be granted to a deserving first-year student who will be attending Wichita State University. Renewals of this scholarship after year one will be \$750 per semester, resulting in a \$6500 maximum scholarship. Students attending other universities will not be eligible for the George Fahnstock Scholarship. Qualifications for this scholarship are the same as for the others apart from attendance at Wichita State University.

Students attending a Technical School must be co-enrolled and attending a technical school as a high school senior or plan to enroll for the Fall 2026 semester.

2. **Eligibility.** The applicant must be a May 2026 graduate of a high school located in Sedgwick County, Kansas, who will enroll on a full-time basis in the fall of 2026 at a technical school, a public or private community college, college or university located in Kansas. **Applicants must have a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.**

3. **Criteria for Selection.** Primary criteria used to select the scholarship recipients include: 1) need for assistance; 2) academic achievement; 3) reference letters; 4) written expression; 5) honors and awards; and 6) school and community activities. Other criteria used in evaluating applications will be ACT/SAT Scores (as applicable), extracurricular activities and after school employment.

4. **Reference Letters.** Two (2) letters of reference are required and may be delivered by mail to the address below or emailed to deb.brinegar@cox.net. One letter must be from a school official on school letterhead who is familiar with the applicant's academic abilities and school activities; the other letter may come from a person of applicant's choice. Each letter must contain the name and address of its author. The letters should contain a statement by the authors as to how long they have known the applicant and in what capacity, and a general statement as to the applicant's motivation, initiative, dependability, ability to communicate and other characteristics the author believes will indicate a successful completion of the applicant's educational goals. Each page of the reference letter should contain the applicant's name.

5. **Transcript.** The applicant's high school counselor must make available a copy of the applicant's transcript. If not included with the application, it must be directed to the address below.

6. **Essay.** An essay of no more than 200 words must be submitted describing not only the applicant's education and career goals *but also* outlining any financial circumstances that contribute to understanding need for the scholarship.

7. **Payment of Scholarship.** The Foundation will remit the scholarship funds directly to the institution indicated by the recipient for credit to the applicant's account. Failure of the scholarship recipient to complete the Fall 2026 semester as a full-time student (minimum 12 credit hours) in good standing with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale will result in a forfeiture of the second \$750 installment for the Spring 2027 semester.

8. **Renewal of Scholarship.** Scholarships are renewable annually up to a maximum of eight semesters per recipient. At the end of each school year, the Rotary Club of East Wichita Foundation Board reserves the right to renew its scholarships for the following year. To qualify for consideration for renewal, students must have a 2.5 cumulative average and after each semester provide grades and proof of full-time enrollment (minimum 12 credit hours) at a Kansas higher institution of learning or technical school. Students will be notified in advance to provide the information.

9. **Deadline and Instructions.** THE DEADLINE FOR ACTUAL RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING TRANSCRIPT AND REFERENCE LETTERS, IS PRIOR TO 5:00 P.M. ON Wednesday, APRIL 15, 2026. Letters postmarked or emailed on or after April 15, 2026, will NOT be accepted. The downloaded application must be typed or printed using black or blue ink. Do not send folders, binders, or photographs with the application. Retain a copy of the completed application for your files as the submitted application will not be returned. Successful applicants will be notified of the award of their scholarships prior to June 19, 2026. Please contact the Scholarship Chair, Deb Brinegar, at deb.brinegar@cox.net with any questions. The scholarship application and a copy of these guidelines can be obtained at www.eastwichitarotary.org.

DOCUMENTATION CHECK-OFF:

_____ Application
_____ Transcript
_____ Reference Letter #1
_____ Reference Letter #2
_____ Essay of 200 words or less

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS TO:

Rotary Club of East Wichita Foundation Scholarship
c/o Deb Brinegar, Scholarship Chair
7700 E 13th St, Unit #46
Wichita, KS 67206
or by email to deb.brinegar@cox.net