

Scholarship Application 2026

Rotary is an international charitable organization comprised of professional and business leaders whose goals are humanitarian service, high ethical standards, and the promotion of goodwill and peace around the world. The motto of Rotary is “Service Above Self”. The Peabody Rotary Club has served the City of Peabody since it was officially chartered in 1920. The Club awards three (3) types of Scholarships to seniors in high school who are residents of Peabody. Each scholarship has a different emphasis.

STUDENTS CAN ONLY APPLY FOR ONE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED.

1. **The Melvin “Mel” Babner Service Above Self” Scholarship**, awarded to those who exemplify the Rotary Motto of “Service above Self”. Community service is weighed heaviest for this scholarship.
2. **The “CTE/Career and Technical Education” Scholarship**, awarded to students pursuing a trade after graduation. You must be attending a technical/vocational trade school OR, if not attending school, use the funds for your trade in some other manner (tools, uniforms, etc.) to apply for this scholarship.
3. **The “Sam Berns” Scholarship**, awarded to students who have overcome obstacles and otherwise exemplify the qualities Sam practiced daily.

\$16,500 was awarded in 2025 for 9 scholarship awards.

Scholarship awards are typically as follows:

Service Above Self: \$1,000 - \$2,500 (5 or more students)

CTE/Career and Technical: \$1,000 (1 student)

Sam Berns: \$2,000 (1 student)

Eligibility Requirements

The applicant must be a Peabody Resident, and a graduating senior of an accredited public, private, parochial, vocational or charter school. They must be accepted to an accredited institution of higher education or vocational training program. Among other factors considered, they must be able to demonstrate that they reach out to others through community service either locally, regionally, or internationally. **The use of A.I. is prohibited for essay answers and will be strictly enforced!**

Application Process

Applications can be found online at the Peabody Rotary Club www.rotarypeabody.org or through the high school guidance department.

Please fill out the entire applicable application, including providing **official** transcripts.

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications will not be considered if postmarked after the due date.
- Interviews may be required for application finalists

**Mail the completed application on or before April 2, 2026, to:
Peabody Rotary Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 94, Peabody MA 01960**

COVER SHEET FOR ALL THREE APPLICATIONS

Which Application are you Applying for: _____

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Home or Cell (circle one)

Email Address: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

College/University/Technical School (if applicable) accepted to: _____

I certify that I am a resident of Peabody Massachusetts.

Applicant's Signature

Date

I certify that my child is a resident of Peabody Massachusetts.

Parent Signature

Date

Official high school transcripts enclosed.



Scholarship Application
Melvin “Mel” Babner “Service Above Self”

1. Peabody is a city of giving back. In one paragraph, tell us about a lasting contribution you have made in your community, and why you chose this service. Explain the lasting impact on the ones you served or on yourself. This could be locally, regionally, or internationally.

2. If you have been employed and/or participated in sports or extra-curricular activities during your high school years, please describe:
 - Your activities
 - Time involved in each
 - Why is/was it important for you to participate?

3. Does your school have a Community Service component as a graduation requirement? If the Answer is yes, how many hours are required? Explain what you did to fulfill this requirement.

4. Include a brief essay explaining why you think you are deserving of the Rotary Scholarship and how you have embraced the Rotary motto “Service Above Self”.

5. Please fill out and submit the “Community Service Verification Sheet” with your “Service Above Self” application.

Scholarship Application
“CTE/Career and Technical Education”

**YOU MUST ATTEND A TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, OR OTHERWISE USE THE FUNDS
FOR YOUR TRADE, TO RECEIVE THIS SCHOLARSHIP**

FUTURE VOCATIONAL OR TECHNICAL OCCUPATIONAL PLANS

Proposed Field of Study

Planned Use of the Scholarship Funds (tuition, tools, uniforms, etc.)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Please list the following for each:

Name of Employer

Job Title

Dates Worked: From: To:

COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Please list the following for each:

Name of Organization

Volunteer Activity

Dates Volunteered

ESSAY

Answers to each question below should average no more than ½ page, 12-point font.

1. Why have you chosen to enter the trade or career field you have listed above?
2. How have you incorporated *Service Above Self* into some aspects of your life? (school, work, community, and/or personal activities)?
3. Include a brief personal statement explaining why you think you are deserving of the Rotary CTE/Career and Technical Education Scholarship



Scholarship Application
"Sam Berns"

The Sam Berns scholarship was created in 2014, in honor of a young man who exemplified courage and integrity in the face of the challenges of Progeria, and whose "can do" attitude and positive outlook on life have inspired millions to live life to its fullest. Sam, who passed away in January 2014 at the age of 17, was the inspiration behind the creation of the Peabody-based Progeria Research Foundation, whose mission is to find a cure for Progeria. Progeria is a rare, rapid aging disease that afflicts children who die of heart disease at an average age of 14 years.

Answers to each question below should average no more than ½ page, 12-point font.

1. After watching Sam's TEDx talk, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36m1o-tM05g>, choose your favorite Sam philosophy and explain why you chose it:
 1. Be okay with what you can't do, because there's so much you can do
 2. Surround yourself with people you want to be with
 3. Keep moving forward
 4. Never miss a party if you can help it
2. What is your philosophy for a happy life?
3. What is your favorite quote from the talk, and why?
4. What obstacles have you overcome, and how? How did your life change after overcoming these obstacles?
5. Explain the most meaningful way in which you have helped others through community service. This could be locally, regionally, or internationally.
6. Include a brief essay explaining why you think you are deserving of the Sam Berns Rotary Scholarship