



**2026 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS
(For Rotary Clubs use only)**

OBJECTIVE

The basis of the Rotary District 6440 Career and Technical Education (CTE)/ Vocational Scholarship program is to recognize and support the outstanding achievements of men and women who reside within the limits of Rotary District 6440, who are preparing to further themselves in a chosen CTE field. Through career and technical education programs, provided at community colleges, technical training institutions, or vocational training programs, successful applicants will receive financial scholarship awards that can be applied to tuition, books, tools, and supplies (must be purchased through the college/trade school) that are associated with specific CTE programs.

PURPOSE (as defined in D6440 Manual of Procedures 2025)

- To provide educational opportunities for individuals in District 6440 who are preparing for vocational or technical careers that **do not require a Baccalaureate Degree.**
- Coursework for the scholarship must be commenced within one year and completed within two years of the grant. **Students who are attending a 4-year program/university (regardless of their area of study) do not qualify for the D6440 CTE scholarship program**
- Encourage careers in vocational and technical skills;
- Foster the ideal of service through vocational training;
- Develop marketable skills in trades and professions; and
- Provide funds to finance qualified and outstanding students to pursue programs that prepare the student for **immediate entry into these careers.**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

In 2026 scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each will be awarded to students who successfully navigate the application and interview process. Applicants must work with the support of local Rotary Clubs who will be able to submit up to **two applicants** for consideration.

Successful students are to submit enrollment notifications and tuition bills immediately after registration. All scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution students attend. Expenses for books, supplies or tools will be reimbursed with approved receipts reviewed by Rotary District 6440 representatives. Awards not claimed within 12 months of the award date will be forfeited.

Scholarships can be pursued and awarded over multiple years but candidates must participate in the application process each year.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must be (an expected) high school graduate or have a GED certificate.
2. Applicant must be sponsored by a **Rotary District 6440 Club***
 - *See www.rotary6440.org/clubsmap for list of local Rotary clubs
3. Applicant must **be accepted** in an approved CTE program.
4. Applicant must live or be employed within Rotary District 6440 limits.

***NOTE: Residing outside Rotary District 6440 for educational purposes is not a reason for disqualification.**

TIMETABLE

November & December: Applications and promotional materials will be circulated by clubs to area high schools, community colleges, and technical training institutions.

January: Applicants are pursued.

February: Applications are received by Rotary Clubs and Rotary Club interviews are scheduled.

March: Rotary Club interviews are conducted, and candidates confirmed. Clubs can submit up to two applications to the District 6440 CTE/Vocational Scholarship program review team.

Applications must be received by the Rotary District 6440 CTE/Vocational Scholarship program review team by **March 20th, 2026**. Applicants will be notified by District and Rotary Club representatives of when interviews will occur. Candidate interviews will take place late March or early April.

April: District 6440 interviews are completed, awards determined, and successful candidates notified no later than **April 20th, 2026**.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The criteria for selection shall include but not be limited to:

- 1) First Priority is the applicant's aptitude in their chosen field, measured by:
 - A. High school or college grades related to chosen field of study or area of concentration.
 - B. General employment experience, with increased value considered for employment relating to their chosen technical field of study.
 - C. Volunteer work and extra-curricular activities, including leadership roles and honors, with increased value considered for activities in areas related to their chosen field of study.
 - D. The quality of their Rotary knowledge essay (**to ensure that all applicants are aware of the impact that Rotary has in their community and in the world, there will be a mandatory up to 500-word essay to be filled out by applicant**) and rapport/relationship with their sponsoring Rotary Club.
- 2) Second Priority is the indication that the applicant would make a good Rotary representative, as measured by:
 - A. Participation in general extra-curricular activities in school such as music, sports, dance, debate, art, etc., or volunteer work in the community, or received awards for scholastic achievements such as being accepted into the National Honors Society, or awards from competitions, with additional value being placed on participation in Rotary Interact Clubs, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, or Rotary Rotaract Clubs.
 - B. Character recommendations through local Rotary Clubs or letters of recommendation.
- 3) A minimum of two letters of recommendation addressing the applicant's readiness to successfully pursue the proposed CTE training program. The recommendations can be from teachers, school administrators, employers, etc.

NOTE: Applicants must seek a local Rotary Club to sponsor their application and be available to be interviewed by the local club. Applications will not be considered until endorsed by a District 6440

Rotary Club. Local District 6440 Clubs can be found at www.rotary6440.org/clubsmap.

SUGGESTED CLUB SELECTION PROCESS

The Club Committee

Select a scholarship committee of two or three members from your club to seek out applicants, conduct interviews and sponsor scholarship candidates.

Finding Applicants

Contact local high schools, community colleges and CTE/Vocational training campuses to encourage publication of Scholarship Applications. Reach out to college resource centers, career resource centers and financial aid counselors to advise prospective candidates to contact their local Rotary Clubs to seek sponsorship.

Additional Awards

Clubs are encouraged to fund and make additional local awards to be given to candidates not awarded district-level scholarships.

Applicant Preparation

Club selection committees should prepare applicants to be interviewed at the district level. Make sure all application materials are legible and applicants are introduced to and understand the nature of Rotary. Be certain all forms contain both printed and written signatures with current e-mail addresses to ensure updates are received on the outcome of the selection process. Applicants prepared by passionate and informed Rotarians have a greater opportunity of success.

Recognition of Scholarship Winners

Rotary Clubs should recognize the District 6440 and Local Club scholarship winners at your Rotary meetings in April, May or June. Consider Inviting parents or guardians to attend Club meetings and provide a press release to the local media.