

## Education Scholarship Awards

### College and Vocational/Technical Programs

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### 1. Scholarships

The Educational Scholarship Awards program was initiated by the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda to recognize local students' good work in high school and to encourage their continued success in post-secondary education. The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda will annually award the following scholarships to local graduating high school seniors:

**Goff Academic Scholarships** are academic scholarships of at least \$2,000 each. They are named in honor of the Goff Family, who were among the area's early pioneers who helped build much of what the Punta Gorda area is today. Notably, Wayne Goff was a longtime Punta Gorda Rotarian who dedicated his life to building, improving, and serving our community.

The **Vocational/Technical Scholarship** is a one-year \$1,000 scholarship for a student attending Charlotte Technical College or another local post-secondary vocational/technical training program.

**Crossroads Scholarships**—On an as-needed basis, the Club may also award a one-year \$1000 scholarship to any current or former student of Crossroads Hope Academy who is accepted and plans to attend a post-secondary college or vocational training program. Because current and former Crossroads students often receive government-subsidized tuition yet still have significant ancillary costs for which they need financial support, the Scholarship Chair will have the flexibility to allow the use of Crossroads Scholarships to pay such costs. The Scholarship Chair may waive any of this policy's criteria for scholarship eligibility, selection, or application procedures for the benefit of current and former Crossroads students.

### 2. Eligibility

A high school student must meet all of the following conditions:

- a. Be a graduating senior from Charlotte High School, FSW Collegiate High School, or Crossroads Hope Academy, with preference given to students residing in the Charlotte High School attendance area.

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- b. Demonstrate a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- c. Plan to attend and be accepted by the postsecondary institution for which the scholarship is sought.
- d. Provide evidence of extracurricular activities, community involvement service, and/or work experience during the high school years.
- e. Demonstrate academic potential for successfully completing a chosen course of study.

### **3. Criteria for Selection**

The Scholarship Committee will evaluate candidates using evidence of the following:

- a. Academic Achievement
- b. Character
- c. Involvement in community service and school activities/organizations.
- d. Two letters of recommendation
- e. Personal video

### **4. Application Process**

- a. A scholarship application and instructions for submitting an application packet may be obtained from the high school guidance office or from [www.puntagodarotary.org/youth-services/](http://www.puntagodarotary.org/youth-services/).
- b. An application packet must be submitted to the high school's guidance office or directly to the Punta Gorda Rotary Club Scholarship Chair ([kns60313@gmail.com](mailto:kns60313@gmail.com)) no later than April 5. (If April 5 falls on a day when school is not in session, the application packet will be due on the first school day following April 5.)
- c. The following should be completed and included in the student's application packet:
  - i. The completed application form, including the student's estimated cost of college attendance;
  - ii. Two letters of recommendation. Recommendation letters may be from a current or past high school teacher, school administrator or counselor, a club advisor, supervisor, employer, or pastor.
  - iii. A personal video presentation, two minutes or less, highlighting the applicant's personality, creativity, and accomplishments. Please provide a link to the video

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on the Scholarship Application, paragraph 6. The video must be viewable on multiple devices, such as iOS, Android or Windows. The video will be viewed by the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda Youth Youth Services Committee only.

- iv. An official transcript of the student's high school grades through the end of the Fall Semester of their Senior Year.
- d. Selected candidates may be interviewed by members of the Punta Gorda Rotary Scholarship Committee by the first week in May.

#### **5. Scholarship and Payment Criteria**

- a. Scholarships will be paid directly to the institution. The student shall notify the Club's Scholarship Chair at least 10 days before payment is due, providing a copy of the invoice including the student's ID number and the address of the bursar's or registrar's office to which the check should be sent.
- b. Students who are recipients of Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship receive free tuition at Florida public colleges. For those students, scholarship proceeds may be used to reimburse documented living and book expenses. Documentation of the Bright Futures Scholarship award and living and book expenses shall be provided to the Scholarship Chair and payment must be approved by the Youth Service Committee.
- c. As noted above, scholarships awarded to current or former Crossroads students may be applied to non-tuition expenses directly related to the student's post-secondary education. For example, the Scholarship Chair could permit direct reimbursement of students for living costs, purchase of books or a computer, or even gas money to get to their classes. The student shall provide receipts or other acceptable verification of such expenses to the Scholarship Chair before reimbursement.

#### **6. Policy Modifications**

Procedural aspects of this policy may be modified, as needed, by the club's Youth Committee and its Scholarship Chair. However, more substantive modifications, such as ~~the~~ descriptions of scholarships or changes to this policy, require the approval of the Club's Board of Directors. Any change in the total cost of the club's scholarship program that

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would increase the total annual Youth Service Committee budget also requires the approval of the club foundation's Board of Directors.

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**Revised: Nov, 2022**  
**Revised: Nov. 14, 2024**