Rotary Club of Weston | Rotary Club of Weston Charitable Foundation

STUDENT GUIDE
2027 SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE
CLASS OF 2027

Apply for a Rotary Scholarship

A step-by-step guide for Weston area high school seniors

DEADLINE	AWARDS	TIME TO COMPLETE	APPLY AT
Sun, Jan 31, 2027 11:59 PM Eastern	**$1,000 up to a full four-year scholarship**	**About 45 minutes once you have your files**	**WestonRotary.org/application**

The Rotary Club of Weston Charitable Foundation awards scholarships to local high school seniors heading to college, university, or trade school. Awards range from $1,000 up to a full four-year scholarship. Applying is free, it is done entirely online, and you can save your work and come back to it. This guide walks you through the whole thing.

Jan 31 **Applications close Sunday, January 31, 2027 at 11:59 PM Eastern.** Late applications are not accepted for any reason. Do not leave this to the last week, because the pieces that take the longest are the ones you have to ask other people for.

1 Can you apply?

You are eligible if **all** of these are true:

- ☐ You are a current high school senior.
- ☐ You are a Florida resident and can prove it.
- ☐ You are planning to attend an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university, or a vocational or trade school. It does not have to be in Florida.
- ☐ You can demonstrate financial need.
- ☐ You have a strong academic record and you are involved in your community.
- ☐ You are **not** a relative of a current or former Rotary Club of Weston member.

YOU MUST ALSO APPLY FOR THESE FOUR

The Rotary scholarship is supplemental, which means it is designed to sit on top of other aid. You are required to apply for all four of these as well:

PROGRAM	WHERE TO APPLY
Florida Bright Futures *Florida Financial Aid Application*	**floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org**
FAFSA *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*	**studentaid.gov**

Free and Reduced Price Meals *Broward County Public Schools*	**browardschools.com/mealbenefits**
Broward Education Foundation *BEF scholarship application*	**browardedfoundation.org/apply**

The meal benefits page explains who qualifies and links to the application at myschoolapps.com. Some Broward schools provide free meals to every student and do not use individual applications, so if that is your school there is nothing for you to file. Ask your counselor if you are not sure.

2 Gather these before you start

This is the part that takes real time. Two of these have to come from other people, so ask early. Files can be PDF, JPG, or PNG.

- [ ] **Two letters of recommendation.** From teachers, employers, or other adults who are not family. *Ask at least three weeks ahead.*
- [ ] **2024 and 2025 federal tax returns,** for your parents and for you if you filed. You only need the first two pages of each. *You may black out Social Security numbers.*
- [ ] **Your FAFSA summary,** if you have it by the time you apply.
- [ ] **Proof of Florida residency.** A driver license, utility bill, or lease works.
- [ ] **A recent color photo of yourself.** A simple headshot.
- [ ] **Your activities and achievements list.** Clubs, sports, jobs, volunteering, awards, service hours.
- [ ] **Your educational goals essay.** What you want to study, where you are headed, and why it matters to you.
- [ ] **A brag sheet.** Optional, but it helps the committee see the whole picture.

3 What the application asks

There are seven sections. You do not have to finish in one sitting.

SECTION	WHAT IT COVERS	TIME
1. Student information	Name, date of birth, high school, address, phone, email	5 min
2. Parent or guardian	Who you live with, family structure, parent names and occupations, siblings	5 min
3. Financial information	Family income, Florida Prepaid, Bright Futures, FAFSA, other aid, employment, car	10 min
4. Costs and resources	Tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and what your family, savings, loans, and other scholarships will cover	5 min
5. Academic information	Weighted and unweighted GPA, SAT or ACT scores, intended school and major, service hours	5 min
6. Uploads and essays	Everything from the list in section 2 above	10 min
7. Review and submit	Check your answers, sign, and send	5 min

4 How to apply

1 Go to WestonRotary.org/application

Type the whole address, including the **/application** on the end. This is the only place to apply and there is no paper form. Use a laptop or desktop if you can, since you will be uploading files.

2 Enter your cell phone number

This is how the system saves your work and keeps your application private. Use a number you will still have in the spring.

3 Type the code we text you

A six digit code arrives by text. Enter it and you are in.

4 Work through the seven sections

Your progress saves as you go. If you close the page, go back to the same address and enter the same phone number to pick up where you left off, on any device.

5 Upload your documents

PDF, JPG, or PNG. Open each one after you upload it and make sure it is right side up and readable.

6 Review, sign, and submit

Do this before January 31. You will see a confirmation when it has gone through. If you do not see one, it did not submit.

5 What happens after you submit

1 The committee reviews your application

First for completeness, then on the merits. Financial need, academics, and community involvement all count.

2 Some students are invited to an informational workshop

If you are invited, attending is mandatory. It does not guarantee an award. Date to be announced.

3 A limited number of students are interviewed in person

Not everyone gets an interview. If you are selected you will be told the date, time, and place. Dates to be announced.

4 Recipients attend the Rotary Scholarship Award Breakfast

This is mandatory. If you do not attend, you will not receive your money. Date to be announced, and it will be confirmed before interviews are scheduled.

READ THIS TWICE

- **Late is not accepted.** Not for a day, not for an hour. The system closes at 11:59 PM Eastern on January 31, 2027.
- **Incomplete means disqualified.** Every question answered, every required document uploaded. The committee does not chase missing pieces.
- **Be truthful.** False information means immediate disqualification, and an award already granted can be taken back.
- **Applying does not guarantee an interview or an award.** Committee decisions are final.
- **Photo release.** Submitting the application lets the Rotary Club of Weston use your photo and information to publicize its scholarship programs.

- **Your application is confidential.** It is reviewed by the Rotary Scholarship Committee to evaluate you for a scholarship. The one exception is the photo release noted above.

6 Advice from the committee

- **Ask for your letters first.** Everything else is in your control. These are not.
- **Get the tax returns early.** You need a parent to find them, and that conversation always takes longer than students expect.
- **Be specific about financial need.** It is a major factor. If something about your family's situation is not obvious from the numbers, the application gives you room to explain it. Use it.
- **Write the essay like a person, not an application.** The committee is reading for who you are and where you are going.
- **List everything you do.** Part-time jobs and caring for family members count as much as clubs do.
- **Check your uploads.** A sideways photo of a tax return is the most common avoidable problem.
- **Submit a few days early.** It gives you room if something goes wrong.

7 Common questions

Does it cost anything?	No. Applying is free.
Can I save and finish later?	Yes. Your progress saves automatically, and you can return on any device.
Does my college have to be in Florida?	No. It must be an accredited college, university, or vocational or trade school. You do have to be a Florida resident yourself.
No SAT or ACT scores?	Fill in what you have, and complete the rest of the application fully.
What if my FAFSA is not done yet?	Attach the summary if you have it. You are still required to apply for FAFSA.
My school is not in the list.	Pick the other school option and type its full official name.
Can my parents help me?	Yes, especially the financial sections. The application must be truthful and yours.
How will I know I am a finalist?	The committee contacts selected students directly with interview details.

8 Who to ask for help

Start with your school counselor. They know this program. If you still need us:

Steve Goldstein *Scholarship Chair*	doctagold@aol.com
Deborah O'Connor Richman *Scholarship Co-Chair*	oconnorrichman@gmail.com
Program inbox	info@westonscholarships.org
Apply here	**WestonRotary.org/application**