COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
at the Jack & Peggy Baskin Center for Philanthropy
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2023-24 Scholarship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

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Program Overview

Who is eligible to apply?

Local graduating seniors and Cabrillo/Hartnell students. Eligibility varies by scholarship. To review all of the scholarship opportunities and the eligibility criteria, click here.

When is the application deadline?

January 30, 2023 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone

When is the Recommendation Letter due?

January 30, 2023 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone. You will not be able to submit your application without a Letter of Recommendation.

What is the Program Timeline?

November 22, 2023 - Application opens

January 30, 2023 - Application deadline (11:59 pm PST)

February 15, 2023 - Renewal Deadline

February through April - Application review period

Early May - All applicants will be notified of their status via email and/or phone call

Early June 2022 - Scholarship Award funds disbursed

Is my award renewable?

Some scholarships are renewable, but not all. Click here to review all of the scholarship opportunities and the renewal details.

How are recipients selected?

Selections are made by the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County's Scholarship Committee and approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors, based on the criteria outlined for each scholarship.

Click here to review all of the scholarship opportunities and the eligibility criteria.

Required Documents

Does my transcript have to be official?

Contact your high school (or college) Administration Office to request your official transcript including the current year's Fall grades for the first semester. You do not need a copy with your school seal, however your transcript must contain the most recent grading period's grades and show your cumulative GPA.

Should I submit all of my information before I request a recommendation letter?

You should request your recommendation letter as early as possible to ensure there is sufficient time for the recommendation to be submitted by the deadline. You do not have to wait until all other portions of your application are complete before requesting your recommendation. Select 'Save' on the application form to save your progress and return to it at a later date.

What supporting documentation is required for this application?

- Official High School Transcript: All applicants
- College/University Transcript: Incoming College Sophomores
- 2022-23 FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) or Dream Act Application: All applicants
- Letter of Recommendation: All applicants
- SAT/ACT Scores: If applicable

Where and when should I send my supporting documents?

All required supporting documents must be uploaded directly to your online application by the application deadline January 30, 2023. Only documents that meet the required criteria and are uploaded by the deadline will be accepted.

What should be visible on my documents?

All uploaded documents must show your name. If you are using an online portal to access your required documentation and all that is visible is the salutation and your first name (Example: Welcome Joe!), this will meet the name requirement.

How long does it take to process my uploaded documents?

If your document was uploaded prior to the deadline, it will be processed. It is your responsibility to ensure your document has been successfully submitted. You will receive a verification email after completing you application and hitting the 'Submit' button on your application. If additional materials are needed, you will be asked to add them to your application when you hit the 'Submit' button, and prompted to hit 'Submit' again once the materials have been added.

Notifications

How will I be notified about the status of my application?

Notifications are sent primarily via email to the email you used to create your account. Ultimately, it is your responsibility as the applicant to verify your application status by checking your Student Portal.

What notifications will be sent to me?

Application Deadline Reminder:
If you have started your application but not yet submitted, a reminder will be emailed to you two-weeks prior to the submission deadline. Applications must be complete/submitted to be eligible.

Renewal Reminder & Instructions:
If your previously awarded scholarship is renewable, you will be sent a reminder notification in mid-February, and again two-weeks prior to your renewal deadline.

Selection Results:
All applicants will be notified of their application status in early May.
Funds Disbursed:
Scholarship Award recipients will receive an email announcement including directions for submitting your ACH electronic bank transfer information. You will be notified when funds have been sent to you via ACH transfer.

Application Status

How do I know if my application is Complete?

Your application status will show as "Submitted" in your Student Portal under the 'Active Requests' tab on your Dashboard. You will also receive a notification email to the email address that you entered on your application verifying your application submission.

As the applicant, what are my responsibilities?

It is your responsibility to make sure your application is submitted and that all information is true. Your online application form must be submitted, all required documents uploaded, and all required supplements (if requested) added on or before January 30, 2023 at 11:59 PM PST.

Award Details

What are the selection criteria?

The Foundation's Scholarship Committee will evaluate the applications and select recipients based on the criteria outlined for each scholarship. All applicants must be a resident of Santa Cruz County and must be either a graduating senior or student at a local 2 year college to qualify.

What are the details of the award?

- Award details vary based on the scholarship opportunity. Click here or scroll down to review all of the scholarship opportunities and the award details.
- Scholarship awards can be used towards tuition, fees, books, supplies required for course work, room and board and other related expenses at accredited institutions while actively attending school. These institutions include: two-year colleges, four-year colleges, vocational schools, technical schools.

What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?

Click here or scroll down to review all of the scholarship opportunities, award details, and recipient responsibilities.

What are the details of the award?

- Award details vary based on the scholarship opportunity. Click here or scroll down to review all of the scholarship opportunities and the award details.
- Scholarship awards can be used towards tuition, fees, books, supplies required for course work, room and board and other related expenses at accredited institutions. These institutions include: two-year colleges, four-year colleges, vocational schools, technical schools.

How and when are funds issued?

Your funds will be issued via ACH electronic payment directly to the bank account listed on your ACH Electronic Transfer Form in early June 2023. Scholarship Award recipients will receive an email award announcement including directions for submitting your ACH electronic bank transfer information, and will be notified when funds have been issued via ACH electronic transfer.

How do I change my college choice?

If the colleges you entered on your application as your first or second choice change, please contact Scholarship Coordinator Katy Souza at ksouza@cfscc.org. Changes in college may affect your eligibility status for certain scholarships.

Are scholarships taxable?

In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition and textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against his or her scholarship award. We recommend consulting a tax adviser for more guidance. You may also consult IRS Publication 970 for additional information.

Eligibility Requirements

You only need to submit one application to apply for all scholarships listed.

Scholarship awards are subject to change from year to year. Scholarships awards range in amount from $1,000 - $20,000 and include both one-time awards and renewable awards.

Judy Anton Woman of Valor/Lupita Loves to Read Project Scholarship

Eligibility
- Female Latina
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Reside in Live Oak or Watsonville area at the time of application
- Graduates or current graduating seniors of any high school in Santa Cruz County **OR** a student of Cabrillo College
- ❖ Priority will be given to a student whose parents are not eligible for public assistance

Award Details
- One award of $1,000 or more which is renewable for up to three additional years based on continued enrollment
    - o Recipient may attend part-time or full-time with no minimum credits required
    - o Enrollment at an accredited college or vocational school

R.H. Beel Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility
- Graduating seniors from Santa Cruz High School
- Must demonstrate academic achievement or improvement
- Must show history of service activities, volunteer work, or social responsibility
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Applicant must contribute personally to their educational costs
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- ❖ Priority will be given to students who do not receive other scholarships

Award Details
- Multiple awards of $1,000 or more, renewable for up to three years based on academic performance, continued full-time enrollment and continued personal contribution to education costs
    - o Award amounts vary based on funding available
    - o Enrollment must be continuous for the entire academic year

The Burton Scholarship

Eligibility
- Graduates or current graduating seniors of any high school in Santa Cruz County
- Must have minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale for two consecutive years
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must demonstrate financial need

Award Details
- Two awards of up to $5,000 will be awarded, and are renewable for up to three additional years based on academic achievements and continued financial need
    - Must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Recipient must enroll full-time at any accredited two- or four-year college/university

Ernest V. Cowell Scholarship

Eligibility
- Graduates or current graduating seniors of public high schools in the Santa Cruz City Schools District with priority to Santa Cruz High School
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Recipient must attend a University of California campus in the fall following graduation
- Recipient may attend part-time or full-time

Award Details
- One award will be granted and is not renewable
    - The award amount will vary based on funding available
    - Recipient is requested to repay their award as soon as they are able after graduating from college

Bob and Betsy Darrow Scholarship

Eligibility
- Current graduating seniors of any high school in Santa Cruz County
- Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA
- Must demonstrate financial need

Award Details
- Multiple awards of $2,000 or more will be awarded
    - The number of awards and award amount will vary based on funding available
    - Recipient must enroll full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational school

Jack DeBord Memorial Fund Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduating seniors from San Lorenzo Valley High School
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Have participated in a Varsity or Junior Varsity team sport at San Lorenzo Valley High School
- Must provide **two** letters of recommendation:
    - One letter from a coach or member of the athletic program at San Lorenzo Valley High School
    - One letter of recommendation regarding applicant's academic performance
- ❖ Priority will be given to students who have earned a Varsity Letter in a team sport

Award Details

- One award of $5,000 will be granted and will be renewable for up to three additional years based on continued enrollment
- Recipient may attend any accredited community, vocational, or two or four-year college

Hank Garcia Jr. and Family Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduating seniors from Aptos High School, Monte Vista High School, Pajaro High School, St. Francis High School, and Watsonville High School
- Must have a minimum 3.5 GPA
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must demonstrate financial need

Award Details

- Awards of $2,000 will be awarded per eligible high school (listed above) and are renewable for up to three additional years based on continued enrollment
    - If there is no eligible applicant from one school, that award may be allocated to another eligible student from another school.
- Recipients may attend any accredited college, university or vocational school

Emmett and Elsie Geiser Athletic Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduating seniors from Watsonville, Pajaro Valley or Aptos High Schools
- Have earned at least one letter in an athletic program
- Financial need is considered but is not required

Award Details

- One award of $1,000 or more will be granted to a graduating senior from each of the three Pajaro Valley Unified high schools and is renewable for up to three additional years based on academic performance and continued enrollment
    - Must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0
    - The award amount will vary based on funding available

Bert and Carolyn Post Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduating seniors from Watsonville High School or Pajaro Valley High School
- Must have the intention of becoming a public school teacher
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA
- ❖ Priority will be given to a student who is first in their family to attend college
- ❖ Priority will be given to students who are bilingual in English and Spanish

Award Details

- A one-time award of $2,500 or more

Louis J. and Mary Ellen Schultz Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduates or current graduating seniors of any high school in Santa Cruz County
- Must demonstrate financial need

Award Details

- Multiple awards of $1,000 or more, renewable for up to three years based on continued enrollment
    - Recipient must enroll full-time at any accredited college, university or vocational school
    - The number of awards and award amount will vary based on funding available

Laura Segura Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduating seniors, or graduates of Pajaro Valley private or public schools or Cabrillo College
- Youth and young adults who have been involved in the juvenile system (including being on probation, in foster care or otherwise involved).
- Will be attending college at Cabrillo or an accredited 4-year college or university full-time

Award Details

- (3) one-time awards of $4,000 are available to graduating seniors

Isabel Fowler Sewell Scholarship

Eligibility
- Graduating seniors from Pajaro Valley High School, or any public high school in Santa Cruz County
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Will be attending college at Cabrillo or an accredited 4-year college or university full-time

Award Details
- (5) one-time awards of $5,000 are available to graduating seniors

Alpert Sharing Fund Scholarship

Eligibility
- Graduating seniors from Watsonville High School
- Are in the top 10% of their high school class
- Are members of the first generation of their immediate family to attend college
- Meet the Pell Grant eligibility requirements

Award Details
- Multiple awards of $6,000 (amount includes $500 stipend for materials for each semester) will be awarded and are renewable for up to three years

Simunovich Family Agriculture Scholarship

Eligibility
- Graduates or current graduating seniors of any high school in Santa Cruz County or the Pajaro Valley **OR** students of Cabrillo College or Hartnell Community College who were residents of Santa Cruz County or the Pajaro Valley at least two years prior to their Cabrillo or Hartnell registration
- Must plan to study Agriculture at an accredited four-year college/university

Award Details
- The number of awards will vary based on funding available and the award amount will be at least $1,000
- The award is renewable for up to three years based on academic performance, program of study and continued enrollment
  - Recipient must be enrolled at any accredited four-year college/university
    Recipient must remain enrolled in the field of agriculture

Barbara J. Thompson Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduates or current graduating seniors from any accredited high school physically located within the Santa Cruz City School District (Santa Cruz, Soquel, Harbor, Delta). No other schools per contract.
- Current graduating seniors must have a minimum GPA of 3.0, if applicable
- Must have participated in three of the following activities during their high school term:
  - Employment
  - Family Care
  - Community Involvement
  - Volunteer Work
  - Sports
- Must have lived in Santa Cruz Country for three of the past four years
- Must be a U.S. Citizen

Award Details

- A (one-time) award will be granted per eligible high school and is <u>not</u> renewable
  - The award amount will vary based on funding available
- Recipient may attend an accredited college, university or vocational school

John L. Turner Scholarship

Eligibility

- Graduating seniors from a Watsonville High School or Pajaro Valley High School
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.0
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must demonstrate financial need
- ❖ Priority will be given to a student who were involved in activities, worked part-time or assisted with family care while in high school

Award Details

- A one-time award of $1,000 or more will be awarded
- Recipient may attend a college, university or vocational school