

**Education Scholarship Awards**

 **College and Vocational/Technical Programs**

1. **Sponsorship**

The Educational Scholarship Program was initiated in 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 award scholarships to graduating high school seniors, which may be applied to their first academic semester. The college scholarships awarded are two (2) two-year scholarships of $1,000 each per year, and are named in honor of Wayne and Leon Woodrow Goff. The vocational/technical scholarship is one (1) one-year $1,000 scholarship for a student going to Charlotte Technical College student.

In addition to the above yearly scholarship programs, and with the approval of additional funding by the club’s Foundation Board, the club—on as as-needed basis—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 Florida Southwestern State College and/or its local collaborative program with Western Michigan University, Charlotte Technical College, or other regional trade school. On a case-by-case basis, any such scholarship may be considered for renewal for a second year if needed.

1. **Eligibility**

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

1. Be a graduating senior from Charlotte High School or Crossroads Hope Academy.
2. Demonstrate a minimum of a GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Plan to attend and be accepted by Florida Southwestern State College and/or its local collaborative program with Western Michigan University, or Charlotte Technical College.
4. Provide evidence of extracurricular activities, community involvement, and/or work during the high school years
5. Demonstrate academic potential for successfully completing a chosen course of study.
6. **Criteria for Selection**

The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda Scholarship Committee will evaluate candidates using evidence of the following:

1. Academic Achievement
2. Character
3. Involvement in community service, and school activities/organizations.
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. Personal video
6. **Important dates (2019 dates)**

April 7 Initial application submitted

April 20 Deadline for letters of recommendation and personal video

May 1 Interview and submission of final transcripts

May 9 Scholarship awarded

1. **Application Package**
2. A completed application obtained from the High School guidance counselor or found http://puntagordarotary.com.
3. Two (2) letters of recommendation from a current or past high school teacher, school administrator or counselor, a club advisor, supervisor, employer, or pastor.
4. Official transcript and validated GPA from the school guidance counselor.
5. Video presentation highlighting the applicant’s personality and creativity, two minutes in length maximum. The video may be uploaded on to YouTube.
6. **Application Process**
7. Submit the application form, estimated cost of attendance to the High School guidance counselor by April 7.
8. Request letters of recommendation by April 20. Letters may be mailed or hand submitted to the High School guidance counselor.
9. Transcript of grades and projected GPA by May 1.
10. The high school guidance will provide six (6) copies of the application to the Punta Gorda Rotary Scholarship Committee by April 28.
11. Video also to be submitted by April 28.
12. **Interview**
13. Candidates will be interviewed by members of the Punta Gorda Rotary Scholarship Committee.
14. Interviews will be conducted during the first week in May.
15. **Scholarship and Payment Criteria**

The scholarship will be requested by the awarded students and paid directly to the institution. The student will provide address information for the scholarship check to be sent.

1. **Policy Modifications**

Procedural aspects of this policy may be modified, as needed, by the club’s Youth Committee. However, more substantive modifications, such as the number and amount of scholarships, require the approval of the club’s Board of Directors. Also, any change in the total cost of the club’s scholarship program will also require the approval of the club foundation’s Board of Directors.

 **Adopted: Oct. 11. 2017**

 **Revised: Feb. 14, 2018**