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**Rotary Club of Issaquah**

**Academic Scholarship Program**

**Guidelines for 2025**

Since 1980, the Rotary Club of Issaquah is proud to award three Scholarships to outstanding students in the Issaquah School District.

Rotarians subscribe to a simple, universal code of conduct known as the **“FOUR WAY TEST”** of the things that we say, think, and do:

First, Is it the TRUTH?

Second, Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Third, Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Fourth, Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Rotary Club of Issaquah is part of Rotary International, which consists of more than 30,000 clubs in over 200 countries. Over 1.2 million Rotarians work to foster high ethical standards in business and professions, international understanding, goodwill, and peace. One of Rotary's international projects is polio eradication and has helped reduce polio cases by 99% worldwide. Other programs include maternal and child health, education, providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, and disease prevention.

Issaquah Rotary works in our community to raise money for both local and international humanitarian causes. We host two major fundraisers in our Club: Run with the Fishes, a 5K family run held in conjunction with Issaquah Salmon Days and The Grape Escape, a local wine and food event. The proceeds of our fundraising program have been shared with the Issaquah Food Bank, The Teen Garage, Eastside Baby Corner, Village Theater’s Kidstage program, and many other community programs.

**Scholarship Awards**

* Goal: To assist and encourage Issaquah School District seniors to pursue a post-secondary education with an emphasis on service to the community
* Expected awards: Three scholarships of $1500 each. The winners will be recognized at the Club’s Scholarship Recognition meeting on May 27, 2025
* Eligibility and awards will be decided by the Rotary Club of Issaquah based on the applicant pool

**Criteria for Selection**

* Demonstrated service to your school and community with a commitment to making a difference in our world.
* Outstanding character, integrity, and personal qualities.
* Financial need.
* Academic achievement: your effort is emphasized over GPA or test scores.

**What You’ll Need to Apply**

* Completed online application form: <https://forms.gle/mmcD3cVLdzVcT3tu6>
* Be prepared to answer these questions
  + Describe an achievement in the past three years of which you are especially proud.
  + Describe any extra-curricular or job-related experiences you have had during your high school career.
  + Estimate your fees and expenses for the coming school year.
  + Describe your current plan for covering these costs. (Please indicate your Expected Family Contribution if you have applied for financial aid)
* Compose a written statement, no more than 2 pages, outlining your service to your school and/or community and include:
  + A description of what you learned about yourself and others while involved in this service.
  + Please incorporate **Rotary’s Four Way Test** in describing your service to your school and/or community
    - **Is it the truth?** How were you honest with others in what you thought, said and did?
    - **Is it fair to all concerned?** How did you take the interests of all affected parties into consideration when making decisions, and put aside preferences and prejudices?
    - **Will it build goodwill and better friendships?** How did you earn the respect of others and develop friendships?
    - **Will it be beneficial to all concerned?** How did you deal with situations involving trade-offs in terms of whom your actions would benefit?
* High School Transcript. If a transcript is not available, please submit your OSPI test scores from the State of Washington for Math, English and Science.
* Three letters of recommendation: two from current or past teachers or school administrators and one from a responsible citizen in the community who can give a worthwhile endorsement of character, diligence, and general disposition. If you were a Rotary Student of the Month during the current school year, only one teacher recommendation is needed.

**What Happens Next?**

* Only applications completed in full by **11:59PM PST April 18, 2025**  will be considered
* Applications will be reviewed by the Rotary Club of Issaquah Scholarship Committee beginning on April 21, 2025.
* Applicants will be notified via email on or before April 30, 2025 to update you on the status of your application. If the Committee selects you for an interview, we will set up a time with you then.
* Interviews for selected students will take place May 5-15, 2025 via Zoom.
* Winners will be contacted the week of May 19, 2025 and be recognized during our Club meeting on May 27, 2025 at 12:00 PM at the Issaquah School District Administration Building
* Payment of the scholarship will be sent directly to the school the awardee is attending NOT to the student directly prior to the start of the 2025 academic year.

**Questions**

* All questions should be emailed to [issaquahrotaryscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:issaquahrotaryscholarship@gmail.com)
* Additional information about scholarships and the Rotary Club of Issaquah can be found at [www.issaquahrotary.org](http://www.issaquahrotary.org)