



ABOUT ELYRIA ROTARY CLUB

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed in 1905. The name "Rotary" derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began contributing their talents and resources to serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is expressed in its principal motto: "*Service Above Self.*" More than 1.2 million Rotarians belong to 34,558 Rotary Clubs in almost every country.

The Rotary Club of Elyria was chartered April 1, 1918, as the 382nd club of Rotary International with 20 initial members. Elyria Rotary is best known as the founding organization of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children and the resulting Easter Seals. The annual holiday party for children with disabilities and substantial contributions to their needs continue to be highlights. Other commitments have included time, talent, and funds for many community improvements, including University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center, YWCA, Cascade Park, Salvation Army, a substantial scholarship program at LCCC, and the Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship Fund. Our club has awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships to deserving students in the past 12 years. The club has cosponsored international service projects in Central America, Africa, and India. Youth oriented programs include sponsoring foreign exchange students, weekly student guests from four area high schools, and an annual student recognition luncheon. Today, the Club's 120 members continue to focus on Service Above Self.

Many of the Club's efforts have been directed toward benefiting the youth of Lorain County with both educational and recreational opportunities. The Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship is one such effort, by which the Club will help one worthy student attain a bachelor's degree at a college or university of the student's choice. In providing this scholarship, the Elyria Rotary Club not only furthers its mission of community service, but also rewards and fosters the community service efforts of the successful applicant.



The Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship Class of 2019 Application

The Elyria Rotary Club is proud to announce the availability of the Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship. This privately funded scholarship will reward a local student who is **actively involved in community service** and has shown success in his or her academic endeavors. The Scholarship has a total value of \$20,000, payable up to \$5,000 per year tuition at a baccalaureate institution. In some years, additional one-time smaller scholarships may also be rewarded.

The Scholarship is open to graduating seniors from any of the five high schools in the Elyria area with which the Elyria Rotary Club has had a long term relationship, including **(1) Elyria High School, (2) Elyria Catholic High School, (3) Midview High School, (4) Open Door Christian Schools, and (5) First Baptist Christian School of Elyria.** The applicant will need to have applied for and intend to attend a baccalaureate institution on a full-time basis for a 4-year degree beginning in the fall of 2019. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the recipient's educational institution. To be considered for the Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ Be a graduating senior from one of the above identified schools;
- ◆ Possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average, through the last grading period;
- ◆ Have been accepted or applied for acceptance to a baccalaureate institution;
- ◆ Enroll full-time at the institution in the fall of 2019;
- ◆ Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 and remain in good-standing at the institution;
- ◆ **Be actively involved in community service, volunteerism, and extra curricular activities;**
- ◆ Submit two letters of recommendation, using the attached forms, from community service/volunteer organization representatives or from teachers, advisors, community members or Rotarians who know the applicant well;
- ◆ FAFSA report has been filed;
- ◆ Provide additional information and documents as called for in the written application;
- ◆ Immediate family members of the Elyria Rotary Club are not eligible to apply.

Selection of the recipient of the Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship will be made by the representatives of the Club's Grants, Scholarship & Endowment Committee in mid-May, 2019. Selection will be based on the applicant's completion of the application and will focus on the student's involvement in community service activities. The applicant selected for this award may be invited to an Elyria Rotary Club meeting for recognition and acceptance of the scholarship award.

**To apply for this award, the application and all required documents must be received by
April 19, 2019**

**Return your completed application and two letters of recommendation to:
Elyria Rotary Club
Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 627
Elyria, OH 44036**

**If you have any questions or need further information, please go to the Club's website
www.elyriarotary.com, under newsletters and forms, or email Scholarship@ElyriaRotary.com.**



ELYRIA ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

The following information is provided to assist parents whose sons and daughters are considering applying for the Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship. Because this information is general in nature, it may assist parents and students in applying for other scholarships, as well.

1. Encourage your son or daughter to apply. It is often rumored that a great deal of scholarship money goes unrewarded. Although that really *isn't* true, what is true is that students sometimes underestimate their chances of success and hesitate to apply for scholarships. Your persuasion may be just what is needed to get the application process underway.
2. Girls are awarded more scholarships than boys. Why? Far fewer boys apply. Whether it's because boys are less comfortable writing about their activities and interests, or because boys conclude before beginning the process that they won't succeed, or because of other reasons, the pool of male applicants for scholarships is small. If you have a son, you may find it takes extra effort to convince him to apply. If you have a daughter, she may find an extra advantage in the smaller applicant pool, since there may not be as many male applicants as she expects. In either case, it's worth applying. The results might be surprising.
3. File your federal income tax return now. Most parents don't realize how important this step is in procuring scholarship funding for college. Much of the information required in applying for college financial aid is taken from your federal income tax return forms.
4. Submit the FAFSA as early as possible. The FAFSA, or Free Application For Federal Student Aid, is the *key* to college financial aid. The FAFSA will require much of the information from your federal income tax forms. Completing and submitting the FAFSA early is important because some colleges award funds more generously to early applicants than they do to those students of similar circumstance who apply later. This is definitely one instance in which you want to be at the front of the line. Colleges won't allocate *any* money for your son or daughter, however, until he or she has submitted the FAFSA.
5. FAFSA and the college financial aid process. The FAFSA is a multi-page form available in all high school guidance offices. It is also available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you complete the FAFSA online, in order to submit it, in lieu of signature, you must utilize a PIN number, which is also able to be obtained through the online process, but which is a separate step. Regardless of which method you choose for applying, do so as early as possible. Much of the financial information requested can be taken directly from your federal income tax return forms. Once the FAFSA is submitted, you will receive a report which will identify an amount labeled "Expected Family Contribution" ("EFC"). This figure represents the amount which,

according to your FAFSA information, the family is “expected” to be able to contribute toward the cost of your son’s or daughter’s education during that scholastic year. This same figure will be transmitted to all of the schools which your son or daughter lists on the FAFSA as those to which he or she intends to apply.

Colleges and universities use the EFC figure in determining how much financial aid to provide to a student. No student can receive financial aid without the EFC having been determined. In addition, many private scholarships, including the Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship, require the EFC to be reported on the application. Private scholarships usually have application deadlines, so, for both the private scholarships and the college and university financial aid award process, submitting the FAFSA early improves your chances of receiving a scholarship or award.

6. Double-check for accuracy. While filing the FAFSA early is important, making sure that the information submitted is accurate and complete is equally important. If the information is incomplete, or inaccurate, the FAFSA will be rejected or returned. The FAFSA will then remain unprocessed until complete or corrected information is supplied, all of which will delay receipt of the information you and the colleges and universities need to determine financial aid awards. You lose the value of having applied early if the information you submit early is not complete and correct.

7. Make sure that all reference letters are submitted on time. For the Elyria Rotary Scholarship, all letters of reference are to be returned, in **SEALED** envelopes, along with the completed application. Once your son or daughter has selected two references and asked those people to write letters of reference, you should follow up with those reference providers. You may have to contact them more than once. This follow-up is extremely important because, if both of the required letters of reference are not included in the student’s application by the deadline (**April 19, 2019**) your son’s or daughter’s application will be *disqualified* from consideration. Make sure that the persons your son or daughter requested to write these letters have completed them, and returned them to your son or daughter in sufficient time to reach the Committee before the application deadline. The potential loss of a \$20,000 scholarship makes this a truly important item worthy of diligent follow-up. **NOTE: Reference letters written by the applicant’s parents or by others related to the applicant will not be considered.**

8. Please refrain from contacting Committee members. The Scholarship Committee spends a great deal of time carefully reviewing each application. If the Committee finds that it needs additional information from an applicant, a Committee member will contact your son or daughter. After the Committee has chosen a recipient, all applicants will receive written notices regarding their applications. Please do not call or otherwise contact Committee members to check on the status of your son’s or daughter’s application. The Committee is committed to making its decision by mid-May 2019.

9. Don’t dread all this. It’s not as bad as it sounds. The worst part of this process is having to get it all done early. Once your son or daughter receives an award of financial aid, the process will seem to have been time well-spent. Forge ahead and keep your eye on the prize. Good luck!