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Scholarship Eligibility Criteria and Application Procedures 2024-2025

Marin County high school students pursuing a trade school or college education in California emphasizing automotive vocational training are eligible to apply for this scholarship award. SHIFTING GEARS USA (headquartered in San Rafael, California) recognizes the need for trained professionals in the vocational trades, including automotive technology, and supports all Marin County high school students by offering this scholarship.

The Scholarship Selection Committee may view academic achievement as an important accomplishment. However, high school grades are not the sole basis for awarding these scholarships. Enthusiastic participation in a student's high school automotive vocational technical program will be a significant consideration, and this shall be enhanced by participation in the SHIFTING GEARS USA supported Car Appreciation and Preservation Program (CAPP) held at Terra Linda High School (which is available to all Marin County high school students, and is accredited by the Marin County Office of Education).

APPLICATIONS

Applications, including all required supporting information, must be received by SHIFTING GEARS USA on or before **April 30, 2025**. Applications are to be emailed to scholarship@shiftinggearsusa.com with applicant's **name** in the subject line, or mailed to Shifting Gears USA, 134 Paul Drive, Suite 101, San Rafael, CA 94903. Incomplete applications or applications received after that date will not be accepted.

RECORDS NEEDED

Records and information required to be submitted with the signed Shifting Gears USA Scholarship Application include:

1. At least two Letters of Recommendation – Contact those who know you and have worked with you (such as high school instructors, coaches, educators, employers, clergy, etc.) to provide letters of recommendation. These letters can be emailed directly to scholarship@shiftinggearsusa.com; your name should be in the subject line. Emails must be received by the application deadline to be considered.

2. Applicant's Statement - a brief (about 300 words) Personal statement of your future educational plans and your interest in the automotive industry.
3. personal statement of interest in the automotive industry.
4. Transcript of your high school grades (an unofficial transcript is acceptable).

Recipient students will receive up to \$2500 for an academic year. This scholarship award will be sent directly to the school the recipient designates for tuition, books and other direct costs of attendance at that institution. Awards are for undergraduate study only. Students may apply in each scholarship period they are eligible. A student may receive a scholarship for up to two years. YOU MUST APPLY EACH YEAR.

The Selection Committee is responsible for reviewing applications, selecting and interviewing candidates, and awarding scholarships. It is made up of Shifting Gears USA leadership, and certain community members. All applicants agree to accept Selection Committee decisions as final.

Application: Interested Students Apply for Scholarship Funds

If you have a strong interest in an automotive vocational trade, and plan to enroll or are enrolled in a two- or four-year automotive technology programs, we encourage you to apply for a Shifting Gears USA scholarship.

Eligibility Requirements

Marin County high school students who have a strong interest in pursuing a career in the automotive trades and services may apply to our scholarship program if they meet the following eligibility requirements.

Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior, high school graduate, GED recipient, or current college undergraduate
- Plan to enroll in undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college or vocational-technical school in California and be pursuing an associates or vocational-technical degree or certification in a vocational automotive trade skill

How to Apply: Our Scholarship Committee Reviews Applicants

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of their demonstrated interest in a skilled trade career and their experience. "Extra credit" is given to those participating in the CAPP curriculum at Terra Linda High School. Letters of recommendation and academic records also contribute to awarding scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Funds will be distributed in two equal payments made directly to the school of attendance. The first payment for Fall semester will be distributed in August 2025 and the second payment for the Spring semester will be distributed in December 2025.

INTERVIEWS

In order to qualify for an award, applicants are required to be interviewed personally with the awards panel. Selected applicants will be notified by email and scheduled for a personal interview. Interviews will be conducted in early May, and they will be coordinated with the availability of the selected applicants.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Applicants will be considered for scholarship awards without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, gender or sexual orientation.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The impartial Selection Committee is comprised of members of the public, and representatives of SHIFTING GEARS USA. Interviews are conducted solely by this Committee and their award decisions are final.

NOTIFICATIONS

All scholarship applicants will be notified by email of the Selection Committee's decisions.

PUBLICITY RELEASE

As additional consideration for being allowed to apply for a scholarship, Applicant, or, if applicable, the Legal Parent or Guardian of an Applicant who is a Minor Child, hereby grants SHIFTING GEARS USA the right to photograph, film, tape or otherwise record or capture, and exhibit, edit, modify and otherwise use Applicant’s physical likeness, name, voice, conversations, sounds (collectively, “Applicant’s Likeness”) for use by SHIFTING GEARS USA, in any manner, medium or format now known including, but not limited to advertising, promotional and sponsorship purposes (the “Projects”), without any further consideration due from SHIFTING GEARS USA or any third party. Applicant agrees that SHIFTING GEARS USA is the sole owner of all results and proceeds of any such photograph, film, tape or recording and Applicant’s Likeness thereon and SHIFTING GEARS USA, in its sole discretion, may choose whether or not to include Applicant’s Likeness in the Projects.

Applicant’s Signature *Print Name* *Date*

Signature of Legal Parent or Guardian *Print Name* *Date*

CONTACT

Please contact SHIFTING GEARS USA by email at scholarship@shiftinggearsusa.com or by phone at 415-479-7727 if you have any questions.