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## Scholarship Program 2024-2025

### OUR VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Shifting Gears USA envisions a community where automobile culture is an important social value, vocational careers are a highly rewarding professional path, and the talent for a variety of trade jobs is available to local businesses. Our Mission, as a car enthusiasts' organization, is to develop, enhance and support vocational training for young people of Marin County by advancing technical education programs that provide a pathway to successful careers in today's workplace.

### WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE SERVE

We direct our charitable giving back into the community, helping to build awareness and respect for skilled trade career choices. Our goal is to fund skilled trade education for Marin students and to develop and establish vocational pathways. We're helping to build a new generation of skilled tradespeople by creating career opportunities for Marin students seeking skilled trade education as an alternative path to a rewarding career, different from the "college-at-all-costs" approach, and helping working technicians find apprenticeship placement and achieve a career in the vocational trades, particularly in automotive technology and vocational services.

### SPONSOR A SHIFTING GEARS USA SCHOLAR

Shifting Gears USA awards trade school scholarships to aspiring technicians to help them learn the skills they need to begin their career. Students receive up to \$2,500 per school year to help pay tuition costs at an accredited two- or four-year college or vocational-technical school. Our scholarships are given to deserving students from diverse backgrounds who want to build a career in automotive technology.

### CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL OF SUPPORT

As an individual, a private foundation or a business, you can support one or more scholarships. By doing so, you will make a substantial difference in the life and career of an aspiring automotive technician with 100% of your gift going toward our scholarship program.

**\$10,000** donation will fund 4 one year sponsored\* scholarships

**\$5,000** will fund 2 one year sponsored\* scholarships

**\$2,500** will fund a single one year sponsored\* scholarship

**\$1,000** will be combined with other gifts to fund a single one-year scholarship

*\*Sponsored scholarships will bear the name of the foundation, business or individual that provided the funds for them.*

### **Every Gift Counts**

Gifts of any size are appreciated. Donations of less than **\$1,000** will be combined with others to fund a scholarship. As a community, we can make a difference.

### **100% Goes to Our Scholarship Program**

When you sponsor a Shifting Gears USA scholar, 100% of your donation goes to our scholarship program. Together, we're creating the next generation of automotive technicians.

### **Creating Career Opportunities**

We're helping to remove barriers and increase access for everyone. Shifting Gears USA is an independent 501(c)(3) public charity working to serve all Marin County students. Your sponsorship gift is tax deductible.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their demonstrated interest in a skilled automotive trade career and their related experience, as communicated through their personal statement and automotive interests. Their letters of recommendation and scholastic achievement will also contribute to the selection of scholarship recipients.

Recipient students will receive up to \$2,500 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 apply for, and receive, scholarship awards for up to two years.

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 program, 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 Car Appreciation and Preservation Program (CAPP) curriculum at Terra Linda High School. Letters of recommendation and academic records also contribute to awarding scholarships.

### **We Stay Connected with Our Scholars**

Through mentoring, events, and volunteer opportunities, we stay connected with our scholars during school and beyond. For those who want to build a career in the automotive vocational trade, a Shifting Gears USA apprenticeship could be a next step.

### **SPONSOR A SCHOLAR**

Shifting Gears USA awards trade school scholarships to aspiring automotive technicians to help them learn the skills they need to begin their career. Scholars receive up to \$2,500 per school

year to help pay tuition and related costs at an accredited California trade school or college. Our scholarships are given to deserving students from diverse backgrounds who want to build a vocational career.

It's easy to sponsor a Shifting Gears USA scholar and support automotive vocational education for aspiring students. There are several ways you can make a donation; download the **'Sponsor a Scholar Pledge Form'** from the Shifting Gears USA web site to make a gift by check or wire transfer. To enable us to retain 100% of the value of your donation please consider offsetting the credit card fees. A separate **'Donation Form'** is also available for download on our website.

### **FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE**

As a 501(c)3 non-profit business and a public charity, we understand and embrace our responsibility to steward the gifts of our donors for the greatest positive impact in our community.

We strive to meet all legal and regulatory requirements, and operate within the best practices, in a timely and transparent manner.

All donations to Shifting Gears USA, under this program, are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Our EIN is 85-0808894.

**8/27/2024**