



ROJ Traditional Scholarship Points & Pointers 2026

The following Points and Pointers was developed to provide each applicant with insight into the evaluation process of the CFY Scholarship Committee. Please read and remember these points and suggestions as you fill out your application. You are not required to take any of this into consideration. Best of luck and we are looking forward to assisting you on your educational journey.

- ★ This scholarship application is about **you**. While the evaluators appreciate everything your parents and family have done for you (so have the other applicants) it is assumed that they have and will help you however they can. Relieving the financial burden on them is understood. The Committee is interested in how this scholarship will impact **you** and help **you** fulfill **your** educational dreams.... the questions about financial "need" will provide the Committee with the information in this area. Focus on **you**.
- ★ The information on the ROJ Traditional Scholarship Narrative document may be very helpful for you in filling out your application. You are provided with a good explanation of some important information to consider. Remember though, you are not applying for any specific scholarship as you will be assigned a sponsor if your application is selected, and your answer will help guide the Committee towards which one best fits your application.
- ★ Take into consideration the amount of time and "best effort" you are putting into this application. **You** are asking CFY for up to \$10,000 to assist you on your educational journey. That is a big ask and **your** commitment to putting in the appropriate thought and effort to explain you and your personal situation is what will distinguish your application from others. Cutting and pasting from previous applications does get noticed by the Committee and graded accordingly based upon **your** effort.
- ★ Get to know CFY and the organization (review the rest of the website) as it will provide you with helpful information on what is important to the CFY organization and give you guidance to help you provide a complete picture to the Committee on why you should be selected.
- ★ CFY's primary focus is Youth Athletics (66% of CFY funding), Education (23% of CFY funding), and Water Safety (11% of CFY funding) for underserved youth. Explain how this has impacted your life and helped shape your values, your educational journey and your completion of the application.
- ★ As noted in the previous point, youth athletics is CFY's bread and butter so how that may have shaped your life as a participant, mentor, volunteer, or fan is of interest and important to the Committee.
- ★ While it varies from year to year based upon sponsors, in 2024 30 students were awarded \$250,000 in scholarships over two programs with the addition of the SPC Scholarship to go along with the ROJ Traditional Scholarships. In 2025, CFY awarded 39 Post Secondary Scholarships for

\$325,000 and in 2026, the organization is awarding 50 Post Secondary Scholarships: ROJ (25), SPC (15), and Vocation Trade (10)...the point is there are many opportunities for you to be successful here, but it is a very competitive process with an anticipated 500 applicants each year.

- ★ With currently \$500,000 invested in 69 students from our last two cycles, CFY also has partnered with the Pinellas Education Foundation and has provided \$200,000 which has been matched over the past three years for their Take Stock in Children initiative. This provides an additional 41 students and makes CFY's current commitment of 91 children for \$750,000.
- ★ Many of our donors as well as the Scholarship Committee are involved as they "pay it forward" because someone or an organization assisted them on their journey.