



ROJ Traditional Scholarship Points & Pointers 2027

The following Points and Pointers were developed to provide applicants with insight into the CFY Scholarship Committee's evaluation process. We encourage you to review these suggestions carefully as you complete your application, as they are intended to help you present your experiences, goals, and achievements effectively.

While these recommendations are not required, they may serve as a helpful guide throughout the application process. We wish you the best of luck and look forward to supporting you as you continue your educational journey.

- ★ This scholarship application is about **you and your** experiences, goals, accomplishments, and aspirations. While the Scholarship Committee recognizes and appreciates the support your parents and family have provided (as they have for many applicants), this application is an opportunity to share your individual journey.

The Committee understands that scholarships can help ease the financial burden of pursuing higher education. However, the primary focus is on how this scholarship will impact **you** and help you achieve your educational dreams. Questions related to financial need are included to provide the Committee with the information needed to understand **your** circumstances.

As you complete your application, focus on **your** story, **your** goals, and the difference this opportunity can make in **your future**.

- ★ The information provided in the ROJ Traditional Scholarship Narrative document may be a valuable resource as you complete your application. It offers helpful guidance and highlights important details to consider when sharing your experiences, goals, and accomplishments.

Please remember that you are not applying for a specific scholarship. If your application is selected, you will be matched with a sponsor, and the information you provide will help guide the Scholarship Committee in determining which scholarship opportunity best aligns with your background and goals.

Take the time to thoughtfully share your story, as your responses help the Committee better understand your journey and future aspirations.

- ★ Take time to thoughtfully complete your application and give it **your** best effort. You are applying for a scholarship opportunity of up to \$10,000 to support your educational journey, and that is a significant investment in your future.

The time, care, and attention you dedicate to sharing your story can make a meaningful difference. The Scholarship Committee wants to understand who you are, your goals, your experiences, and



the circumstances that have shaped your journey. A thoughtful and personal application can help distinguish you from other applicants.

Please avoid simply copying and pasting responses from previous applications. The Committee reviews each application carefully and can recognize when responses reflect genuine thought and effort. Use this opportunity to share your unique story and demonstrate why this scholarship would make an impact on your educational goals.

- ★ Take the time to learn more about CFY and its mission by exploring the organization's website and available resources. Understanding CFY's values, programs, and commitment to supporting youth will provide valuable insight into what is important to the organization.

This knowledge can help you thoughtfully shape your application and provide the Scholarship Committee with a more complete understanding of who you are, your goals, and why you would be a strong candidate for this opportunity.

- ★ CFY's primary focus areas are Youth Athletics (66% of CFY funding), Education (23% of CFY funding), and Water Safety (11% of CFY funding), all of which support and empower underserved youth in our community.

As you complete your application, reflect on how these areas have influenced your life and personal growth. Consider how your experiences have shaped your values, guided your educational journey, and contributed to the person you are today.

Share how CFY's commitment to supporting youth has impacted you and how that connection is reflected throughout your application. Your response should help the Scholarship Committee better understand your experiences, your aspirations, and the path that has led you to this opportunity.

- ★ As noted in the previous section, youth athletics is at the heart of CFY's mission and remains the organization's primary area of focus. The Scholarship Committee is interested in understanding how athletics has influenced your life and contributed to your personal growth.

Whether you have participated as an athlete, served as a mentor or volunteer, supported others from the sidelines, or simply been inspired by the role athletics plays in your community, share how those experiences have shaped your values, character, and goals.

Your connection to youth athletics can provide valuable insight into your journey and help the Committee better understand the experiences that have helped shape who you are today.

- ★ Scholarship opportunities and award amounts vary each year based on the generosity and support of CFY's sponsors. In 2026, the ROJ Traditional Scholarship Program awarded \$205,000 in scholarships to 26 students, helping them pursue their educational goals.

Through the 2026 cycle of the Richard O. Jacobson Education Program, CFY invested a total of \$407,000 in 58 students through three scholarship pathways: ROJ Traditional Scholarships (26



students), CFY/SPC Scholarships (18 students), and Vocational/Trade Scholarships sponsored by Duke Energy (13 students).

In addition to these scholarship programs, CFY has partnered with the Pinellas Education Foundation to support the Take Stock in Children initiative. Over the past five years, CFY has provided \$500,000 in funding, which has been matched to create additional opportunities for 53 students.

These investments reflect CFY's ongoing commitment to expanding access to education and empowering students to achieve their future goals.

★ Many of CFY's donors and Scholarship Committee members are involved because they understand the importance of giving back and "paying it forward." Their own journeys were often shaped by individuals, organizations, or opportunities that provided support along the way.

As you complete your application, consider the people, experiences, and opportunities that have helped you reach this point. Reflect on how receiving this scholarship may not only support your educational goals but also inspire you to make a positive impact on others in the future.

Your story and your potential to continue the cycle of support are important parts of what the Scholarship Committee hopes to learn about you.