



CFY/SPC Scholarship Points & Pointers 2027

The following points and pointers are designed to give you insight into how the **CFY/SPC Scholarship Committee** reviews applications. While there is no single formula for earning a scholarship, these suggestions can help you better understand what the committee considers when evaluating applicants.

As you complete your application, use these recommendations as a helpful resource, **not a requirement**. The committee is looking for thoughtful, authentic responses that reflect your unique experiences, goals, and aspirations.

We encourage you to take your time, answer each question honestly, and let your personality shine through. Your story matters, and this is your opportunity to share how a **CFY/SPC Scholarship** will help you achieve your educational goals.

We wish you the very best throughout the application process and look forward to learning more about you. Good luck and thank you for taking the next step in your educational journey!

★ **Focus on Your Story** - This scholarship application is about **you**.

The Scholarship Committee understands that parents, guardians, family members, and other supporters have played an important role in helping you reach this point. While easing the financial burden on your family is an important benefit of this scholarship, the committee is most interested in learning how this opportunity will impact **your** future.

As you respond to the application questions, focus on your experiences, your goals, and your educational aspirations. Explain how receiving the CFY/SPC Scholarship will help you continue your education at **St. Petersburg College** and move you closer to achieving your personal and career goals.

Questions related to financial need will give the committee the information it needs to understand your financial circumstances. Use the remaining questions to tell your story, what has shaped you, what motivates you, and why this scholarship will make a meaningful difference in your educational journey.

The strongest applications are thoughtful, authentic, and personal. Let the committee get to know **you**.

★ **Helpful Resources** - The **CFY/SPC Sponsor Narrative 2027 Guide** is a valuable resource designed to help you prepare a strong scholarship application.

The guide provides helpful insights, writing tips, and important information to consider as you complete your essays and application questions. We encourage you to review it before you begin writing so you can better understand what the Scholarship Committee is looking for and confidently share your unique story.



Taking a few minutes to review the guide can help you submit a thoughtful, well-prepared application that reflects your experiences, goals, and aspirations.

- ★ **Put Your Best Effort Forward** - Your scholarship application is your opportunity to show the Scholarship Committee who you are and why this investment in your future matters.
- ★ The **CFY/SPC Scholarship** can provide **up to \$9,000** in support by covering eligible tuition, required fees, and books for **two academic years** while you work toward earning your associate degree at **St. Petersburg College**. Students who have not already completed college-level Math and English coursework are required to enroll in those courses during their first term.

Because this scholarship represents a significant investment in your education, we encourage you to take your time and give your application your very best effort. Thoughtful, authentic responses that reflect your experiences, goals, and aspirations help the Scholarship Committee understand who you are beyond your grades and activities.

Remember, this is **your** story. While it may be tempting to reuse essays from other scholarship applications, the strongest submissions are those that are written specifically for the CFY/SPC Scholarship and thoughtfully address each question. Your sincerity, effort, and attention to detail can make your application stand out.

- ★ **Learn About CFY** - Before you submit your application, take some time to explore the CFY website and learn more about our mission, programs, and impact throughout Pinellas County. In 2026 CFY will have invested \$1.2 million throughout Pinellas County.

CFY is dedicated to creating opportunities for underserved youth through three core areas of impact:

- **Youth Athletics (66% of annual funding)**
- **Education (23%)**
- **Water Safety (11%)**

Understanding CFY's mission will give you valuable insight into the organization's commitment to helping young people succeed. As you complete your application, reflect on how these areas have influenced your own life. Have you participated in youth sports, benefited from educational opportunities, or developed important life skills through programs that support young people?

In your essays, share authentic examples of how these experiences have shaped your values, influenced your educational journey, and inspired your future goals. The Scholarship Committee wants to understand your unique story and how this opportunity will help you continue building on those experiences.

The strongest applications are genuine, thoughtful, and personal. Take the time to reflect on your journey and show the committee why the CFY/SPC Scholarship will make a meaningful difference in your future.



- ★ **Investing in Student Success** - CFY is committed to expanding educational opportunities for students throughout Pinellas County by investing in scholarships and strategic community partnerships that help remove financial barriers to higher education.

Through the **Richard O. Jacobson Education Program**, CFY invested **\$750,000** in **96 students** during the 2025 and 2026 scholarship cycles. This investment includes support through the **ROJ Traditional Scholarships**, **CFY/SPC Scholarships**, and the **CFY Vocational/Trade Scholarships**, sponsored by **Duke Energy**.

CFY's commitment to education extends beyond its own scholarship programs. Over the past five years, CFY has contributed **\$500,000** to the **Pinellas Education Foundation's Take Stock in Children** initiative. Those funds have been matched, doubling the impact and creating educational opportunities for **53 additional students**.

These investments reflect CFY's belief that every student deserves the opportunity to pursue their educational goals. By partnering with generous donors and community organizations, CFY continues to help students build brighter futures while strengthening the Pinellas County community.

- ★ **The Power of Paying it Forward** - Many members of the **CFY/SPC Scholarship Committee** and **CFY Board of Trustees** volunteer their time because someone, a mentor, coach, teacher, family member, or organization, invested in their own educational or personal journey. They understand the lasting impact that encouragement, opportunity, and financial support can have on a young person's future, and they are committed to helping the next generation succeed.

As you complete your application, think about what receiving a CFY/SPC Scholarship would mean for your future. How will this opportunity help you achieve your educational and career goals? How might you one day use your education, experiences, and success to make a difference in the lives of others?

CFY believes that scholarships do more than help students earn a degree, they create a cycle of opportunity. Today's scholarship recipients become tomorrow's leaders, mentors, volunteers, and donors, continuing the tradition of investing in future generations of Pinellas County students by **paying it forward**.