



Vocational/Trade 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 CFY Vocational/Trade Scholarship Narrative document may be extremely helpful for you in filling out your application. You are provided with a good explanation of valuable information to consider.
- ★ Take into consideration the amount of time and "best effort" you are putting into this application. **You** are asking CFY for dollars to assist you on your educational journey by paying for your tuition and providing uniforms, tools, supplies, etc. if you attend Pinellas Technical College or tuition assistance of \$3,500 for any other accredited school. 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.
- ★ CFY's Vocational Trade Scholarship Program is dedicated to supporting students who pursue careers in skilled trades following high school graduation. This scholarship process attempts to attract applicants for which this award will be truly impactful and life changing. With this scholarship, CFY is eliminating all financial barriers if you attend Pinellas Technical College, such as

extra cost for uniforms, tools, equipment, and supplies. The CFY's Vocational Trade scholarship will provide a \$3,500 tuition scholarship to other accredited schools.

- ★ Through CFY's partnership with Pinellas Technical College with their mission to provide students with the opportunity to develop national workplace competencies to meet the needs of business and industry. CFY's Vocational Trade Scholarship Program focuses on identifying and supporting the correct recipient to receive an award by attracting students who demonstrate the ability to work hard in the classroom and want to be in an environment for success.
- ★ Our partnership with Pinellas Technical College allows the scholarship recipients to be able to focus on the process of learning and not the overall cost. Selecting Pinellas Technical College as your preferred school will ensure full support for your vocational education through CFY.
- ★ CFY has invested \$500,000 in 69 students from our last two cycles (2024 & 2025) with the Richard O. Jacobson Post Secondary Scholarship Program, St. Petersburg College and CFY's partnership and has also partnered with the Pinellas Education Foundation and has provided \$100,000 which has been matched over the past two years for their Take Stock in Children initiative. This initiative provides an opportunity for an additional twenty-two students and makes CFY's current commitment ninety-one children for \$700,000 over the last two years.
- ★ Scholarship Committee and Board of Trustees are involved as they "pay it forward" because someone or an organization assisted them on their journey. This is valuable information as to why they are involved and how you may look at your long-term commitment to this program and education opportunities in Pinellas County.